



news

# A city confers its freedom on the president



Local news President Bill Clinton samples the stout in Cassidy's bar in Dublin yesterday

## Bhagwan women jailed for five years over US murder plot

DAVID USBORNE  
Portland, Oregon

United States judge yesterday sentenced two British women to five years in prison each for conspiring to murder the US Attorney for the state of Oregon while members of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh "free-love" cult 10 years ago.

The two women, Sally-Anne Croft, 45, and Susan Hagan, 48, were convicted four months ago by an Oregon jury of helping to hatch a plot at the Bhagwan's sprawling compound in the centre of the state, known as "Rancho Rajneesh", to assassinate the then federal Attorney, Charles Turner.

The sentence, delivered by Judge Malcolm Marsh in an emotional hearing in court, was considerably more lenient than most had expected. Technically, the pair could have been imprisoned for life, although that was never thought likely. Both women will be able to seek pa-



Treated leniently: Susan Hagan, left, and Sally Anne Croft, sentenced yesterday after five-year legal battle

role after serving just one-third of their sentences but can expect to serve two-thirds. They will begin their sentences next month, probably in a low-security camp

in Washington State. They will remain free on bail until then.

Even as he began reading his statement explaining the factors in his considerations, Judge

Marsh indicated he still had not decided finally on the length of the sentences. He said that while the crime committed was "most serious indeed" he had been swayed by some 50 letters of support sent to the court by friends and supporters of the women since their conviction.

"I do have a sense from the letters I have received of support that the defendants have confronted and have considered what they were involved in and I sense they believe that it is something that they would have better avoided," the Judge concluded.

Hagan thanked the judge for allowing her to stay free pending the sentencing. In recent weeks she has been working on an Aids project. "Your generosity in allowing me to stay out on bail has allowed me in some small way to give back to the community," she said.

Yesterday marked the climax of five years of legal battles for the two women. They

had returned to Britain in 1985 after abandoning the cult shortly before it fell apart and the white-bearded Bhagwan, famed for his fleet of 94 Rolls Royces, fled to his native India, where he later died.

When the US government revealed in 1990 that it was seeking to extradite the women in 1990 to stand trial in Oregon, they earned the support of several high-profile British figures, including MPs such as Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown. The extradition request was finally granted by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, in 1994.

The assassination plan arose because Mr Turner was leading a grand jury inquiry into allegations of mass immigration fraud on Rancho Rajneesh.

The ranch's inner circle, which included both Croft and Hagan, were apparently concerned that his investigations threatened the continued existence of the cult and had to be stopped.

## Lottery blamed as charity slashes spending by

REBECCA FOWLER

Save the Children – one of Britain's largest charities – yesterday announced sweeping £5m cuts to its projects across the world because of a continuing fall in its income, which it believes have been compounded by the effect of the National Lottery.

The charity, which funds projects in 50 countries and whose president is Princess Royal, is to cut its £51m overall budget by 10 per cent April 1997.

"It's a very tough fund-raising climate anyway, and half of our income is from voluntary contributions, which is under pressure," said Don Redding, a spokesman for Save the Children.

"People feel they don't have much money in their pockets, and they're not going to have much money coming in in the future."

"When you add the lottery to

Alan Murdoch sees the President and Hillary receive a rousing reception

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news

# and a people rejoice in the spirit of peace



Irish welcome: Top left, schoolgirls rush to greet the President in the Falls Road, Belfast; below left, RUC officers keep the crowds back in west Belfast; main picture, the presidential car tours east Belfast. Photographs: AP/Reuter/John J.

There might not have been quite so many people in Dublin's College Green had we not seen the huge party that turned out for Bill Clinton in Belfast and Londonderry. The Dubs will not be outdone.

The rain lifted from the skies when Air Force one approached Dublin Airport and Ireland's most popular radio show hosted by Gay Byrne urged the listeners to go out and give the man a proper welcome.

**Maeve Binchy**, the novelist, finds joy on the streets of Dublin and hope in Irish hearts

Stop complaining about the traffic restriction and the roads being closed off, stop bellyaching about the hundreds of secret service men in mackintoshes speaking into their wrists and peering through sunglasses for terrorists on the roofs of what we know to be perfectly blameless buildings. Go in there, show the man that we

appreciate that he's doing something for peace.

The President met the leaders in the government Buildings while Hillary Rodham Carter spoke to an invited audience of Irish women in Ireland's national Gallery.

Standing under the famous Daniel MacIise painting "The Marriage of Strongbow and Aoife" the 12th Century liaison that cemented the whole unfortunate and confused relationship between the two islands, the wife of the President of America urged the women of Ireland to be courageous in carrying out all the hopes and dreams of these days; the work of peace was too important to be left to the elected leaders.

And then it came to the bit that the people of Dublin could join in, the part where the President was made the 63rd Freeman of Dublin City.

Standing in front of the magnificent building that once held the parliament of a united Ireland and Britain for a few short years at the end of the eighteenth century, Bill Clinton faced his public. There were thousands and thousands there, office workers on very long lunch-times, families from the suburbs who had brought children in by bus and train to see a bit of history. They said to each other that he was taller, and greener and better-looking than he looked on television.

He could have stayed for

ever and ever, his face so familiar suddenly relocated in familiar streets was heavy.

But there were huge other things like a pint of Guinness in Cassidy's pub and an address to both Houses of the Irish Parliament, a state banquet, he couldn't stay all that making jokes with darts and waving to their children.

Did they like him? Almost certainly and universally yes. The average Dubliner is cynical but not as they went home from the Friday afternoon in the fresh air.

A man taking his children home by the hand through the happy streets gave the man his due. He sees himself as a peacemaker, and don't we need those badly?

Maeve Binchy is a columnist for the Irish Times

## First Lady lambasted over 'pointless women's meeting'

VICKY WARD

At the start of the President's European tour, Hillary Clinton told the 22 distinguished women who had coffee with her in the plush environs of the US ambassador's dining room on Wednesday morning that the only way to deal with criticism is not to take it personally. "Women spend too much time worrying about other people's approval and not whether or not they approve of themselves," she said. Hours later she needed to put those words into practice.

Mrs Clinton's London coffee morning was not deemed a

success either by most of the women "delegates" chosen to attend it or the right-wing British press who gave it almost as much critical press attention as her husband's speech on the Irish peace process to Westminster. The *Daily Mail*, which even devoted a leader to the subject, are indignant at the selection of what they see as an unrepresentative bunch of lefties to exchange views on women's issues.

The guests, who included the *Independent's* associate editor Polly Toynbee, Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, Baroness Blackstone, Labour's foreign Affairs spokesman in the Lords, and Georgina Huxley, deputy editor of the *Guardian*, were unsure as to who had actually chosen them, or indeed why. Most were rung by US Embassy staff only the night before, and the maximum notice was 48 hours.

Some like Lola Bubbash, the deputy editor of the *Literary Review*, thought there must be some mistake when they were told Mrs Clinton wanted to canvas the opinions of British women on British women's issues - Ms Bubbash is American.

There was no written formal to the meeting, and no obvious chair. After Mrs Clinton had met everybody individually - she

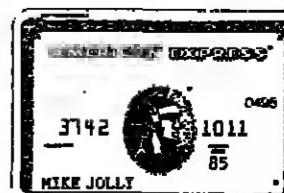
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# news

**Medical breakthrough:** Company's fresh approach to treatment of disease stirs interest of scientists and City

## New drug offers hope for cancer sufferers

TOM WILKE  
Science Editor

The most effective cure for cancer is the surgeon's knife. A combination of surgery and radiotherapy ranks second in terms of effectiveness, while chemotherapy - anti-cancer drugs - accounts for comparatively few cancer cures.

But surgery is effective only if the cancer cells have not spread around the body from the original tumour, in a process known as metastasis. Once a cancer has metastasised, then the prognosis is bleak.

It is here, in preventing tumours from metastasising, that British Biotech's new drug, Marimastat, offers most hope.

Dr Fran Balkwill, principal scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said: "The long-term dream of this treatment is that you'll live with your cancer - you'll keep taking a pill and it doesn't spread. If your cancer is not spreading anywhere and not disrupting any vital function, then it doesn't matter so much."

Dr Balkwill emphasised that while "it's very interesting scientifically, these are very early data. We can't say this is a new cure for cancer."

According to Ann Barrett, professor of oncology at Glasgow University, "although overall, chemotherapy contributes in only a relatively small way to cure in cancer, a drug that could stop metastasis would be of interest and could be used in conjunction with the effective local treatments we do have - surgery and radiotherapy". Professor Barrett also emphasised that "it is too early to assess if these drugs are going to be useful in clinical practice".

Marimastat's other significant potential benefit to patients would be that it can be taken orally, possibly at home, rather than having to be injected in hospital. It also appears to have

less awful side-effects than existing anti-cancer therapies.

Current anti-cancer drugs attack and kill fast dividing cells. Tumour cells grow quickly, but so does hair and the cells lining the gut - which is why people feel nauseated and sometimes their hair falls out during chemotherapy.

Professor Gordon McVie, director of the Cancer Research Campaign, said Marimastat is "an interesting drug because it's got a new target". The drug obstructs powerful enzymes associated with tumours - matrix metalloproteases.

Dr Balkwill said that in epithelial cancers - for example those located on the lining of the gut wall - there is a thin wall of collagen that can prevent the tumour spreading but these enzymes are breaking it down.

If the tumour is to spread, it needs these matrix metalloproteases and other enzymes to get into the blood and circulate.

By concentrating on the body's mechanisms for containing the cancer rather than killing tumour cells, Marimastat "has a completely different line of attack", Dr Balkwill said.

British Biotech reported interim results on clinical trials of 94 patients with advanced colorectal, pancreatic, ovarian and prostate cancer. The company did not measure tumour shrinkage directly, instead it used a surrogate measure - the concentration of "cancer antigens" in the patients' bloodstream.

In 33 per cent of those taking the drug for 28 days, levels of antigen either fell or were stable. In a further 26 per cent of patients the levels rose but much less quickly than before treatment started.

The company's research and development director, Dr Peter Lewis, said the tests needed to be completed before Marimastat was made available outside the company's trial programme.



Trial run: Pills being tested for dissolution at British Biotech's laboratory in Oxford

Photograph: John Lawrence

## City scrambles for the next Glaxo

TOM STEVENSON

British Biotech is the sort of company that gets the stock-market its reputation for being little more than a casino. Its shares were worth just over £10 on Wednesday night, £15.50 by the close of trading on Thursday and £16.75 yesterday after touching £20.

One trade was reported at £25 at one point during the frenzy as investors scrambled to jump on the bandwagon - six times as much as the shares sold for at the beginning of the year.

The question exercising everyone's mind in the City was whether this was the next Glaxo, once a tiny research outfit and now Britain's biggest

company, or just another flash in the pan, hyped by spivvy share dealers to make a profit at someone else's expense.

On the face of it nothing had really changed at the company except that it had announced some relatively promising results from tests on cancer patients of a new drug called Marimastat. There was also the prospect of further results this weekend from tests on another drug, codenamed BB-10010, which prevents damage to the immune system during chemotherapy.

How then could the business be worth £500m one day and £750m the next? At the beginning of the year the market had assigned a value of only about

£200m to exactly the same company.

The reason is that the City is ill-equipped to value businesses like British Biotech which have never made a profit - Thursday's comments on the progress of the Marimastat tests accompanied a loss for the first half of the year of over £10m. When it comes to the flourishing biotechnology sector it's all about hope, the ultimate in what professional fund managers call blue sky investment.

Founded in 1986 when British Biotech's chief executive and chairman were made redundant from top research posts at a US drugs firm, Seear, the company gained a stock-market quotation in 1992, riding

a wave of interest in the sector, one of the few commercial areas in which Britain excels.

It is Britain's biggest biotechnology company, and as such the market's biggest hope in its quest for the next Glaxo, the hugely successful drugs company that hit the headlines earlier this year when it took over Wellcome for a record £9bn.

Glaxo brought enormous financial gains to shareholders who backed it 15 years ago before the launch of its blockbuster ulcer treatment, Zantac. Since the beginning of the 1980s the value of the company has soared a staggering 64 times so that it is now Britain's largest company by a wide margin, worth more than £30bn.

A relatively recent phenom-

emon in the UK, the market's enthusiasm for the biotechnology sector has a long tradition in the US where the largest company Amgen was a 1980s start-up operation and is now valued at more than \$5bn (£5bn). For investors who pick the right stock the rewards can be almost limitless.

But British Biotech is also proof positive that when a company's shares are hyped so strongly in the City, the fall can be every bit as painful as the rise was exhilarating. Back in February, the company warned

that tests on another cancer treatment, Batimastat, had been delayed and the market responded savagely, wiping away a quarter of the company's value in a single day.

## 'Exorcist' killed his fiancée

A self-styled exorcist was jailed for six years yesterday for killing his bride-to-be, and sealing her mummified body in a tomb in his house.

Fanatical religious cult leader Nicholas Saguaro, 27, of East Ham in London, believed his mission was to cure "those possessed with demons and raise

the dead in the name of Christ". Odegbami but, as a result, she died from that treatment."

Saguaro, dressed in black, carried a heavy black-leather Bible as he was led to the cells. He had been convicted of manslaughter and false imprisonment at an earlier hearing, but remanded for reports. He denies the charges.

### IN BRIEF

#### Man in court on kidnap charges

A man appeared in court yesterday charged with kidnapping two schoolgirls who went missing from their homes for three days.

The girls, 9 and 10, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were found alive and well by police on Wednesday night.

Andrew Brodton, 32, of Leicester, who was remanded in custody until 6 December at Leicester magistrates' court, was charged with two counts of kidnapping the girls and with possessing a .22 automatic pistol. He was also accused of possessing cannabis worth £50,000 and amphetamines worth £90,000.

#### 'Mad cow' call

Pressure increased on the Secretary of State for Agriculture, Douglas Hogg, to tighten "mad cow disease" regulations after Professor Sir Bernard Thorpe, a leading brain scientist and government adviser, warned that bovine spongiform encephalopathy could be transmitted to humans. Labour's agriculture spokesman, Gavin Stringer, echoed his call for beef to be banned from the food chain.

#### Piper Alpha claim

A North Sea oil rig painter who saw his colleagues perish in the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988 lost his High Court battle to sue his employer for psychiatric damage. William Hegarty, 43, was aboard the support vessel which tried to aid the rig as it was destroyed by explosions; 167 people died.

#### 'Cruel' HIV injection

A woman who injected her former boyfriend with her own HIV-infected blood was jailed at the Old Bailey for two years yesterday - World AIDS Day. Mrs Justice Steel told Rhema Ndagga, 25, who came from Uganda in 1993 seeking political asylum, that her crime was "deliberate, calculating and cruel".

#### Call to ban toy ads

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, tabled a Commons motion blaming war toys for brutalising boys and encouraging aggressive behaviour in adult life. He says television advertisements for such toys should be banned.

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مكتبة الأرشيف

**Barings Bank collapse:** Singapore could seek extradition of alleged collaborators in disgraced trader's grand deception

# Leeson points finger at bosses in clemency deal

STEPHEN VINES  
Singapore

A number of senior executives at Barings Bank may face prosecution as a result of evidence given by the former futures trader Nick Leeson in return for lenient treatment.

"The bosses knew something was amiss but took no action," Leeson's lawyer, John Koh, told the court in Singapore yesterday. He said Leeson's immediate bosses, Simon Jones and James Bax, were aware of the fact that Leeson was hiding the extent of his trading losses from Coopers and Lybrand, Barings' auditors, as were many senior executives in London.

Mr Jones and Mr Bax remain in Singapore, where their passports are held by the authorities. Both men have been closely questioned by the financial crimes unit which is investigating the Barings collapse.

However, the most severe criticism in the Singaporean inspectors' report on the collapse is reserved for Peter Norris, the former chief executive officer of the Baring Investment Bank Group, who may face extradition from London.

In the ruthless free market of financial trading, Barings' com-

petitors punished the bank for its negligible controls and left Leeson with the responsibility of appearing before the court to determine his punishment, said Mr Koh.

Leeson has no reason to protect those who left him with this responsibility. It is clear that he will tell the authorities everything he knows about their role in unlawful activity at Barings.

Singapore needs his evidence because, as the independent inspectors' report – commissioned by the minister of finance – shows, there was little co-operation with either the Bank of England or senior Barings executives outside Singapore.

Leeson can fill in some of the gaps and be a witness with direct knowledge of events. This knowledge is the key to the bargain he has struck with the authorities in return for a reduced punishment.

Less important, but crucial, has been his lawyer's many references to Leeson's regret over having cast doubt on the impartiality of Singapore's legal system. The government is determined to ensure that the Barings fall-out does not damage the credibility of the island state as an international financial centre. Part of that credi-

bility depends on trust in the legal system.

Even though Leeson has negotiated a deal for himself, it is clear that he was involved in criminal acts which went beyond simple financial manipulation.

Lawrence Ang, who led the prosecution's case in the trial, described in detail some of the ingenious ways in which Leeson hid the extent of his losses and managed to trick Barings' auditors into believing that his losses did not exist.

At the end of January 1995, Leeson was having trouble explaining the loss of 7.8bn yen (£50m), which he had tried to disguise by alleging that an American customer would be paying this sum back to Barings.

However there was no customer and there was no more cash (although Leeson forged letters from the customer stating that the cash would be paid). As the auditors closed in, he devised a plan to transfer the missing money from one Barings bank account to another, before swiftly moving it back to the account to which it belonged.

The purpose of this subterfuge was to obtain documentary evidence that the alleged debt had been repaid.

The cut and pasted statement was then photocopied and passed on to the auditors. The

original collage was found in Leeson's desk.

Meanwhile Leeson had identified the weak link in the reporting system of the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex), which required futures traders to maintain a reserve account with the exchange to protect the exchange against default. He saw that it was possible to key a false trade into the exchange's computer, which had no means of knowing whether it had actually been transacted. Once this was done the false Barings client's account making the loss could be said to be in balance, therefore allowing Barings to recover almost \$115m (£75m) of its money held as security with Simex at a time when it was falling into deeper and deeper debt.

As for Leeson himself, he too is in debt, according to Mr Koh. He now has no assets, only

liabilities. The proceeds from his forthcoming book will go to the lawyers in Britain, Germany and Singapore, as well as his agent and ghost writer.

Mr Koh said Leeson made no profit from his reckless, unauthorised trading, he was simply trying to cover up losses.

However, the statement which showed the payment, also showed the transfer, so Leeson set about cutting and pasting the bank statement to remove the reference to the transfer.

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## Watford's different class of banker City panic changed to disbelief

MARY BRAID

From council house in downtown Watford to Singapore slayer of the Queen's bank – the class chasm between Nick Leeson and Barings was almost as central to the story as the lost £80m.

Singapore police and reporters chased Leeson to Malaysia after the scandal broke, rocking the world's financial markets. At home his shell-shocked family – his father Harry, a plasterer, and his three younger brothers and sisters –

were also being pursued to provide a picture of the working-class boy who broke Britain's oldest merchant bank.

From Watford and Singapore emerged two very different profiles. At the local Parmiters School they were stunned by the former prefect's new-found notoriety. Nick was remembered as "quiet" dependable and steady. Failing A-level maths proved no obstacle to a career in banking. He seemed to be able to move markets, remembered one fellow trader.

The cocky trader image was one Leeson sought hard to shed. In an interview with David Frost he played down the "ex-

travagance" of his old Singapore lifestyle and reports of luxury apartments and personal yachts.

Last month, however, when Leeson was reeled back in to Singapore it was the arrogant Nick – broad grin under the reversed baseball cap – that reappeared. But surely the other Nick was hiding beneath the hubris. For the horror of his situation must have long sunk home and Singaporean justice will not look lightly on a man it considers to have damaged the squeaky-clean image of its financial centre.

JOHN EISENHAMMER  
Financial Editor

The Barings catastrophe provoked panic among City investment banks. But they were less worried that others would be brought low by the contagion of collapse, than suffering an eruption of the fear that stalls every high-risk taking financial business – are we next?

Barings collapsed not just because a young trader halfway across the world bet more than twice the capital of the bank on brainless derivatives spec-

ulation, but because Barings' entire risk management system failed to spot what was going on.

The big trading houses spend fortunes on sophisticated computer technology and specialist departments whose vital daily task is to monitor and control the risks involved, as billions of pounds change hands, and to ensure that no single trader steps out of line.

Suddenly, every bank felt terribly vulnerable. "Just days after the Barings collapse we had to present ourselves to the Barclays board and explain how this

just could not happen here," says Graham Newall, chief executive of futures at BZW, Barclays investment bank. "We really believed that, but when we came back, we had to put our hands on our hearts and say, how can we be so sure?"

"Nobody slept well in the days immediately following Barings," said the head of risk management at another City investment bank. "There was a frenzied rush to make sure that every bankers worst nightmare could not happen here."

As more details seeped out

about how Barings collapsed, the less threatening it appeared for other finance houses. Even to this day, senior bankers in the City shake their heads in utter disbelief at how Britain's oldest merchant bank managed to run a securities business with such a total lack of the most rudimentary checks. The reports by both the Bank of England's investigators and those of the Singapore authorities painted a garish picture of rampant managerial arrogance and incompetence, which Nick Leeson exploited with apparent ease.



Cutting his losses: Nick Leeson arriving by prison van for yesterday's hearing at which he admitted two charges

Photograph: AFP

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## news

# Intensive care bed shortage 'causing deaths'

GLENDA COOPER

More than 3,000 deaths could be averted each year if we had the standards of intensive care found in the United States, doctors said yesterday.

While the US currently spends £144 per head of population on intensive care, the United Kingdom spends only £5.90. France (£54), Japan (£47) and New Zealand (£26) are all bigger spenders than Britain, and doctors yesterday called for the number of intensive-care beds to be tripled.

For the last two and a half years South West Thames Regional Health Authority has been collecting data on more than 10,000 patients admitted to intensive care units (ITUs), including their clinical treatment and the subsequent outcome. This was compared with data on 20,000 patients in the US.

Presenting the findings at a press conference in London yesterday, Dr David Bennett, reader in intensive-care medicine at St George's Hospital Medical School in Tooting, south-west London, said that the patients in his survey had a severity-of-illness score that was about 10 per cent higher than their US counterparts. However, they spent about

10 percent less time in ITUs and 15 percent less in hospital.

Mortality rates were also 20 per cent higher than in the US. Dr Bennett estimated that 200 to 250 more people in his region died than would have done if they had been treated in America.

Between 1 and 2 per cent of hospital beds in Britain are for intensive care, compared with 5 per cent in Canada, Australia, the US and most of northern Europe.

Dr David Bahari, a former consultant in intensive care at Guy's Hospital in south London who now works in St George's Hospital in New South Wales, Australia, told the conference: "We demonstrated that there were 2.2 ITU beds per 100,000 [population] in England compared with 5.3 beds per 100,000 in New South Wales. We are not talking about a small difference. We are talking about a 100 per cent or greater difference."

Last February, doctors carried out a major telephone survey of hospitals across the country. In the area within the M25 they found only eight available intensive-care beds. They concluded that in the event of a major disaster hospitals there would be unable to cope.

A similar survey carried out

last month found that although intensive care beds have increased by 6 per cent since last February, the occupancy rate is still running at 90 per cent, which does not allow sufficient margin. Some hospitals are still having to refuse admission to critically ill patients.

Dr Bennett said a hospital in Birmingham had refused admission to 12 patients in three days. "Even if the number of beds was substantially increased, the specialist staff just aren't there ... Surveys which we carried out in January and November of this year confirm that units have had to close some of their beds due to the absence of trained intensive-care nursing staff."

He and Dr Bahari urged the Department of Health to institute long-term planning for the number of intensive-care beds required and to introduce a training programme for doctors.

Dr William Sibbald, head of critical-care medicine at the University of Western Ontario warned at the conference: "People don't want to plan for tragedies. But you have a stake in this. There is a strong likelihood you will need an intensive care unit in the future. Making sure it's there is an important responsibility for us all."



Young Conservative: A mother and baby at yesterday's conference in London addressed by John Major

Photograph: Glyn Griffiths



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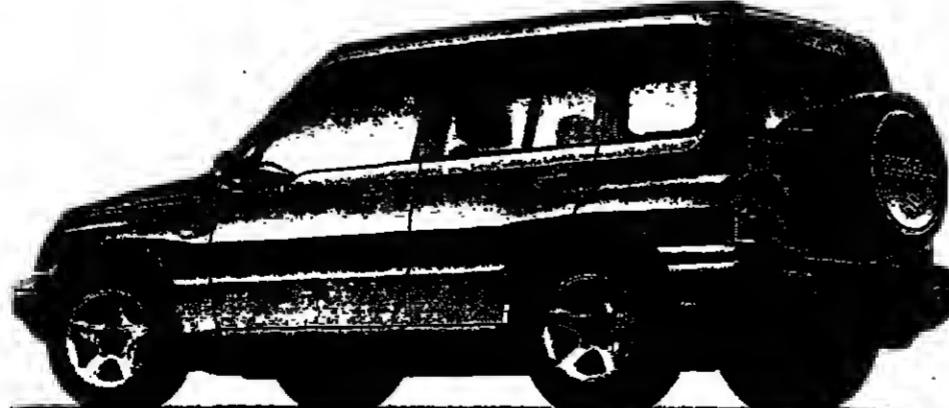
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Tory women's conference: PM rallies troops with endorsement of Chancellor

## Major declares pride in 'rewards' of the Budget

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke's Budget was the fairest way of giving people back a growing share of their own money, John Major declared yesterday in an effort to rally his party behind the Chancellor.

In the closing address to the Conservative Women's Conference in London, the Prime Minister went onto challenge Labour to "work for the rewards of the Budget".

Stephenson, Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

Mr Major sprang to the defence of Mr Clarke in the wake of barely concealed disappointment by some Tory backbenchers that he had not gone for bigger cuts in public spending and tax.

Declaring he was "proud" of the Budget, Mr Major said: "I read all the pre-Budget options: 'Bulge people; take risks; don't worry about the long

term' ... I've heard it all my life, and I tell you this, I won't do it."

The Budget would "reward those millions of our citizens who have worked so hard to help to build the economic success we now enjoy by giving back to people, in as fair a way as we could devise, a growing share of their own money ... widening the bands, cutting the basic rate, and introducing a new, lower, 20 per cent rate on savings."

Mr Major said the workforce scheme, under which those who refuse an offer of work experience will lose some or all of their benefit, was an example of "how we develop long term policies to deal with long term problems - and then take real action."

David Blunkett, Labour's education and employment spokesman, said the Government's £10m scheme would be more likely to result in people going back on welfare at the end than getting a permanent job.

Mr Major told the conference

that Labour approached every problem with a flapping chequebook. They hold the pen, but it's your chequebook and your money ...

"Spending more means only one thing. They would have to put up taxes, it's as simple as that. Without higher taxes, Labour's sums don't add up."

Turning to Europe, Mr Major declared that a speech by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, on Thursday had "misled the country". Mr Blair said Labour would never be "isolated". Britain would now be in the Social Chapter, losing jobs instead of gaining investment," Mr Major said.

Mr Blair was "plain wrong" on the Social Chapter, he added. "He made out that it was like a buffer lunch ... pick and mix, choose only what you like ... The Social Chapter is a mechanism, a means to an end. On much of it, there's no veto. No picking and choosing. You have to swallow the lot."

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Money Marketing, 23rd November 1995

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# MP denies threatening to kill wife with knife

REBECCA FOWLER

David Ashby, the Tory MP denied to a libel jury yesterday that he threatened to kill his wife with a carving knife, and accused her of being obsessed with media attention following the exposure of the failure of their marriage.

Mr Ashby, MP for Leicestershire North West, also denied he threatened to set his wife, Silvana, on fire with a cigarette lighter and dismissed allegations he picked up a knife to attack her when she visited his home in Leicester, where he was staying with a male friend.

"She was coming at me and attacking me, and I pushed her away," Mr Ashby said. "She phoned the police, and I was horrified by that. She'd been standing there saying 'help, he's attacking me'."

Mr Ashby burst into tears at the High Court on the fifth day of giving evidence in his libel case against the *Sunday Times* and Andrew Neil, its former editor, following allegations that he is homosexual.

As Mr Ashby, 55, recalled the day in January 1993 when the newspaper published the article, which alleged Silvana Ashby, 52, his Italian wife, was furious he had left her and moved to live close to another man, he broke down.

"It was absolutely dreadful. I had no control over it," Mr Ashby said. "It was my wife on one hand alternating between rages ... the press hammering at the door, the telephone ringing, the pack howling at the gates."

But Mr Ashby said when he asked his daughter Alex, 27, to come home and "rescue" him,

Mrs Ashby lost her temper again. He claimed she did not want a friend of Alex's, Suzie, to pick her up from the airport because it would divert attention from her.

"She said all they wanted to do was grab the limelight, arrive in a taxi and prance in front of the cameras," Mr Ashby said. "My wife seemed obsessed by the limelight."

Although Mr Ashby agrees he shared a double bed in a French chateau hotel with Dr Ciaran Kilduff, 32, his neighbour in Putney, south-west London, he denied that they shared each other's beds there and dismissed allegations they had homosexual relations.

Richard Hartley QC, for the *Sunday Times*, said it would be unrealistic to say how intimate the men were, but it was a homosexual relationship.

"You and Dr Kilduff shared a degree of physical intimacy as part of your homosexual affection for each other, and in pursuance of the homosexual affair," Mr Hartley said. "It could have been kissing and cuddling."

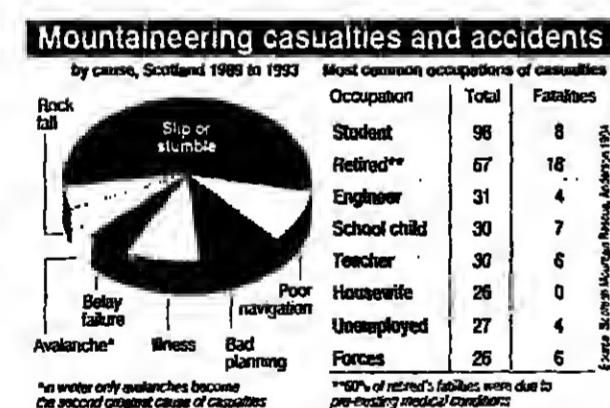
Mr Ashby later claimed he did not spend a night at Dr Kilduff's flat because he was tending to the family dogs.

When Mr Hartley accused Mr Ashby of sending a blackmail letter to his wife, telling her not to give evidence at the trial, he broke down in tears again, and claimed he was protecting his wife's dignity.

"What is the world thinking of my wife now, in the press all the time," he said. "I tried to speak to her. I didn't want it to happen."

The case continues.

## Mountaineers defend risks in the Highlands



STEPHEN GOODWIN

With the first snow having already fallen on the Scottish hills, the British Mountaineering Council took pre-emptive action yesterday, pointing out the pleasures and pitfalls of its sport before the inevitable crop of winter accidents.

A good winter in mountaineering terms - a decent cover of snow and ice and the weather to get out on it - will mean more deaths. Past statistics suggest that about 20 mountaineers will be killed in the Highlands this winter.

Just as predictably, their deaths will be followed by calls for a ban on climbers taking to the hills in "bad" weather, for compulsory rescue insurance and for certificates of competence.

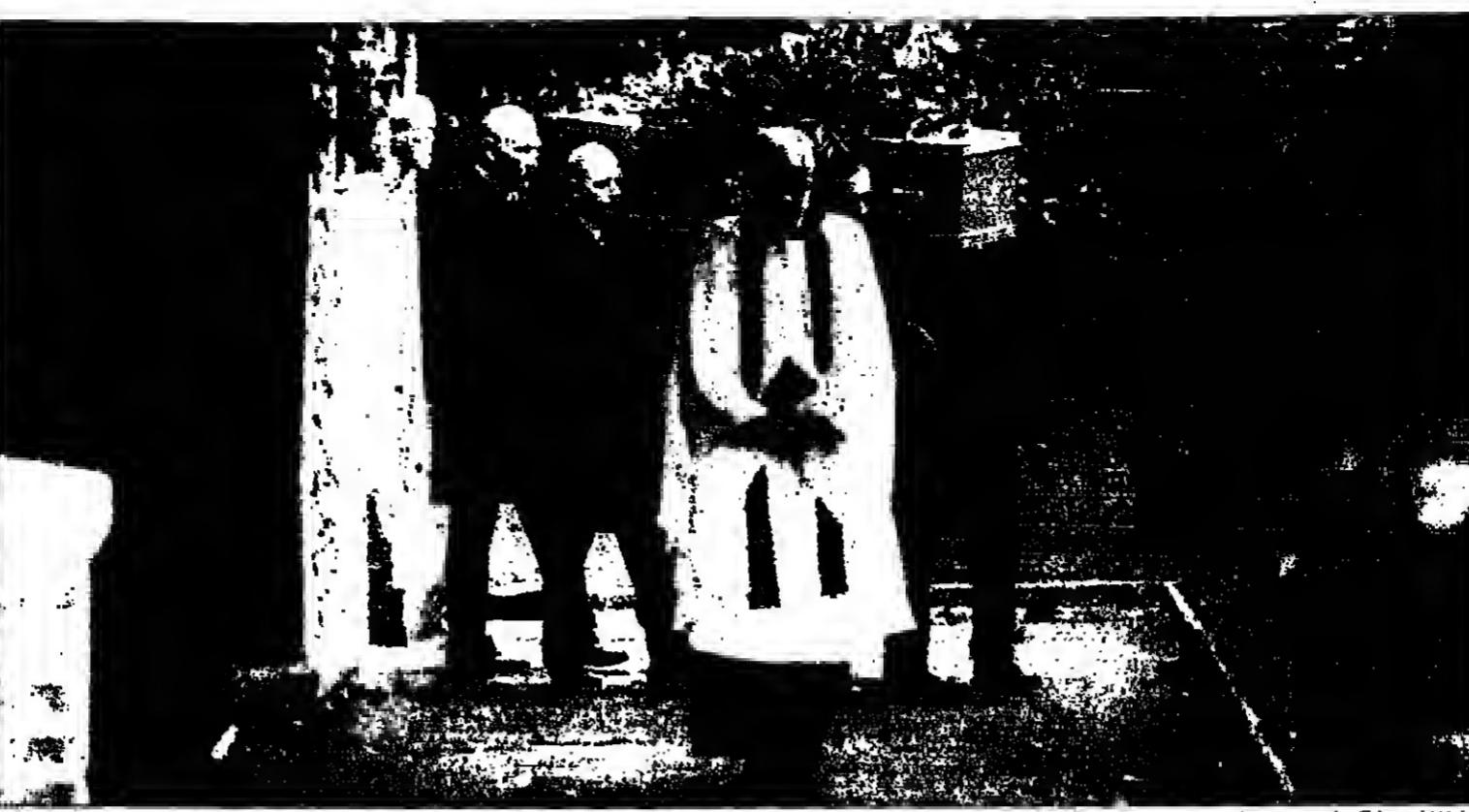
The BMC rejects all such restrictions. "For the mountaineer the most important freedom is to be able to take risks," said Doug Scott, the council's vice-president, a man who has courted the fine edge for decades from the Highlands to the Himalayas and suffered serious injury.

"Those reacting in knee-jerk fashion to highly publicised mountaineering accidents have simply failed to see that there is a success story with large over our hills every winter, when thousands of walkers and climbers safely and competently deal with all the hazards and enjoy the freedom of the mountains," Mr Scott said.

Contrary to the winter crop of newspaper headlines, statistics suggest that the number of incidents is falling as a proportion of the increasing numbers taking to the hills for recreation.

The proportion of incidents resulting in fatalities has also fallen.

## Leah Betts' funeral hears of father's pride and love



Photograph: Edward Webb

The father of Leah Betts, who died last month after taking an ecstasy tablet on her 18th birthday, paid tribute to his "pretty little ship" at her funeral service yesterday.

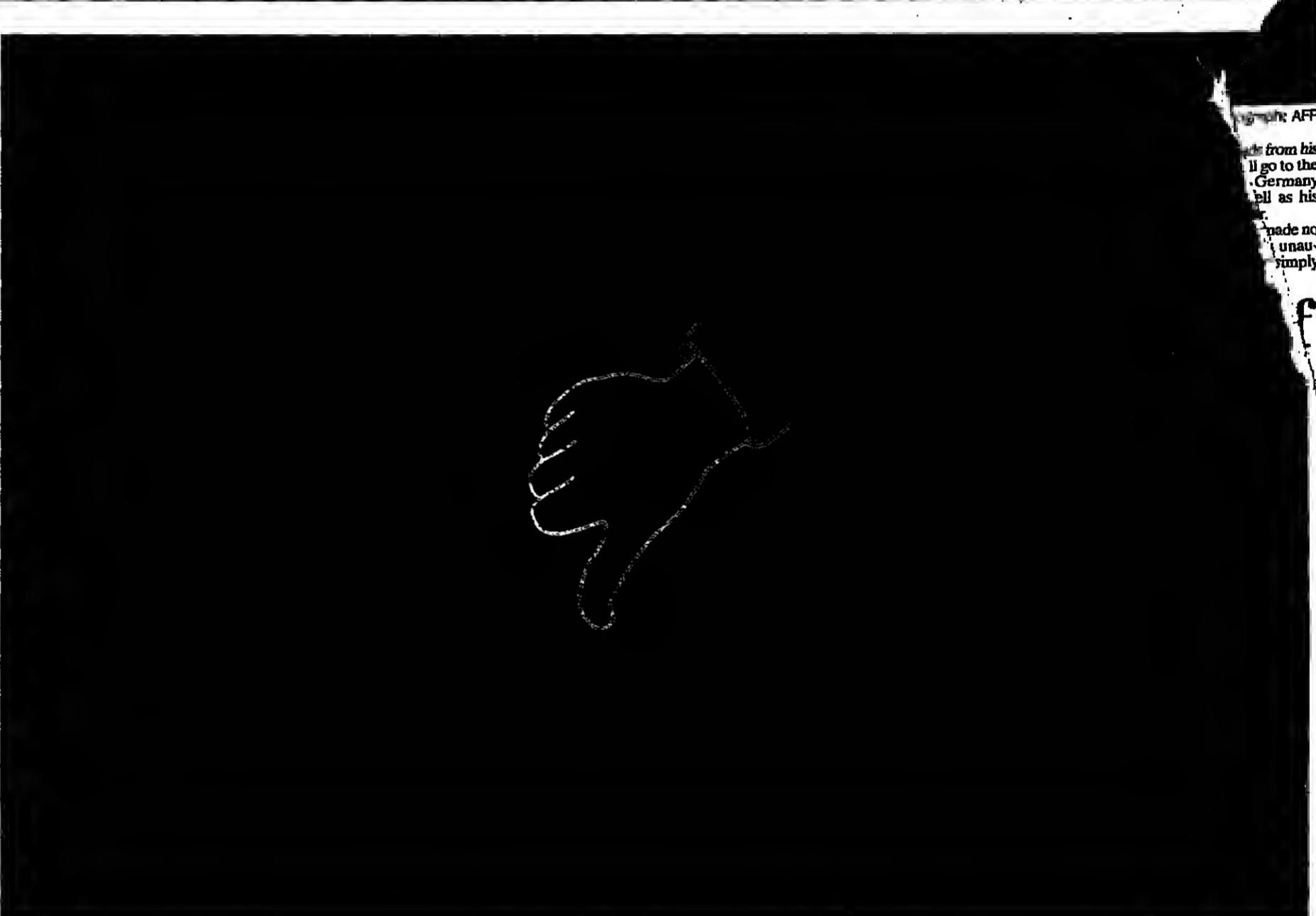
In a moving address at Christ Church in Latchingdon, Essex, Paul Betts spoke of his pride and love for his daughter and described how he taught her how to deal with the world.

Comparing himself to a ship's captain, the former policeman said: "He thought that he had prepared the little ship for anything that the sea could throw at it ... he trusted it with all his heart and believed that wherever it went it would return safely."

"All of a sudden a gigantic wave lifted the little ship into the air and tossed it on to jagged rocks ... His little ship was lost and would never again sail the sea," he said.

Family, friends and dozens of teenagers were among the congregation. Many stood outside the church, listening to service taken by the Rev Don Gordon broadcast on speakers.

Leah was later buried alongside her mother, Dorothy, at Mary Magdalene church in Great Baxted, Essex.



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news

# Raid hits trade in endangered species

Seized medicines allegedly made from parts of tigers, rhino, bears and tortoises. Louise Jury reports



Trade war: One of the packets of seized Chinese medicines. Photograph: Edward Sykes

Chinese medicines allegedly made from parts of tigers, rhinoceroses, bears and tortoises were being tested yesterday after detectives seized large quantities in a raid on a warehouse.

Officers investigating the illegal trade in endangered species raided the west London warehouse, described as the "small port of an off-duty lorry-load of products."

"It's a way for analysis and, which was carried out, it was good that police were taking the problem seriously."

Wildlife organisations, which have been consulted about the Metropolitan Police initiative, codenamed Operation Charm, welcomed the action.

The move follows an operation in February when products from threatened animals were seized from shops in London, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. Two London shop-owners were fined £3,000 and £2,000 respectively and ordered to pay costs.

Inspector John Francis, the Metropolitan Police's senior wildlife officer, and PC Dave Cove said they believed the warehouse was a major supplier for the south-east of England.

The valuable raw animal products, such as bear bile and tiger bone, sell for up to £200 an ounce, making the haul worth thousands.

Wildlife organisations, which have been consulted about the Metropolitan Police initiative, codenamed Operation Charm, welcomed the action.

Bobbie Jo Kelso, of Traffic, which monitors the trade in cooperation with the Cites Secretariat, said: "We're really pleased that things were found because we think every item counts. But we're particularly pleased that a lot less was found than in February."

The world-wide trade was "absolutely huge" but it appeared that traders in Britain were deciding the police operation made it not worth the risk said.

Lucy Farmer, of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), said it was good that police were taking the problem seriously. "This illegal trade is threatening animals, like tigers, with imminent extinction. Unless the trade can be stopped, there is no future for animals like tigers."

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## Animal cures: their origins and claims made for them

Part of animal used	What it does	Population of animal	Where they are found
Rhino horn	Rhino horn is used in traditional Chinese medicine, but is not contained in any national or international protected species lists. It is used to treat many illnesses, particularly for reducing fevers and strokes. Research on the pharmacological characteristics has shown evidence of fever-reducing properties.	The world population now around 11,000, though figures are not exact. Some 1,000 to 1,500 black rhinos may have numbered 65,000 in sub-Saharan Africa, and were the most numerous of the five species today, with around 2,500 left.	Asia, Southern Africa
Saiga Antelope	Saiga horn is used to treat convulsions, headaches, vertigo, and other complaints. Saiga horns from saiga antelopes have traditionally been used to treat many illnesses, particularly for reducing fevers and strokes. Research on the pharmacological characteristics has shown evidence of fever-reducing properties.	The world population is estimated at 500. All the remaining subspecies are threatened with extinction.	Central Asia
Bear bile	Bear bile is used to treat convulsions, headaches, vertigo, and other complaints. Bear bile from Asiatic black bears has traditionally been used to treat many illnesses, particularly for reducing fevers and strokes. Research on the pharmacological characteristics has shown evidence of fever-reducing properties.	The world population is estimated at 10,000 bears left. In small captive herds, their bile is harvested annually.	North America, South America, Europe, and Asia
Tiger bone	Tiger bone is used to treat convulsions, headaches, vertigo, and other complaints. Tiger bone has traditionally been used to treat many illnesses, particularly for reducing fevers and strokes. Research on the pharmacological characteristics has shown evidence of fever-reducing properties.	The world population is estimated at 10,000 tigers left. In small captive herds, their bone is harvested annually.	Asia

Chinese remedies are rooted in 4,000 years of tradition, but growing Western interest in alternative medicines has increased the threat to animal and plant species.

Products taken on Thursday included some using the root and seed pods of a rare orchid not previously known to environmental investigators for its use in Chinese medicine.

It is an offence not only to sell or keep for sale products on the Cites banned lists, but also any purporting to contain them – even if they do not. Many of the products taken from the ware-

house do not have an English description of what they do.

Where they are found

house have one, they have been covered with a sticker stating: "No medical claims are made for this product".

## 'Pay beds' yield the NHS £300 profit per patient

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

The National Health Service is making a profit of almost £300 for each private patient it treats, money that can be ploughed back into treating more NHS patients, according to the first detailed independent study of whether the NHS is subsidising private patients or making money from them.

Even if "hidden" costs are taken into account – the cost to the public sector of training doctors and nurses, unexpected

admissions to NHS intensive care, and loss of consultants' time to the NHS – pay-bed units are still making an average profit of £235 a case, the study concluded.

Multipled up across all pay-bed activity, that is enough to keep a 250-bed NHS acute hospital in business, according to David Cavers, managing director of Norwich Unioo Healthcare, which sponsored the study.

The study was carried out by National Economic Research Associates, an independent firm of consultants, who examined

the accounts of six NHS hospitals whose pay beds accounted for an 11 per cent sample of dedicated pay-bed units.

Although a sample survey, it represents the most detailed examination yet of whether the NHS gains financially or not from treating private patients.

Independent hospitals – with

which pay-bed units are in direct competition – have long argued that the NHS subsidises private patients. And yesterday the Independent Healthcare Association underlined that stance by calling for proper regulation of

treatment cost £1,400, including the return on capital which the hospitals have to make.

That £310 surplus should be adjusted down to allow for junior doctors' time, the study says – an estimated cost of £19. That left a financial surplus of £290 per patient.

In a more pessimistic scenario, NERA says, a further £56 should be knocked off to allow for lost consultant time (£12), unplanned intensive care (£8), training of nurses (£24) and training of doctors (£12). That still left a £235 surplus.

Not all six units were equally profitable. Their surpluses, after allowing for junior doctors' time, ranged from £30 to £590, but all made a surplus.

The average gain of £290 per patient, "would represent around £170,000 for each film of private patient revenue," the study concludes.

Pay beds may well be more profitable than private hospitals – in part because their occupancy rates are higher at 60 per cent, against 53 per cent for private hospitals. Shared facilities with the NHS – use of operating theatres, for example – may also provide economies of scale, the study says.

The Independent Healthcare Association yesterday called for a moratorium on new pay-bed units until NHS private-patient activity was properly audited. The association also queried whether the use of government funds to allow the NHS to compete against private hospitals was legitimate.

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### For a golf lover:

Any one who likes golf will love The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Dukinfield who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club – fairways, bunkers, clubhouse and all. There's one snag: to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's never played a round of golf in his life. "The scenario is tailor made for Vernon Coleman's light and amusing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said the Sunday Independent. "Very readable!" said Golf World. "Hugely enjoyable in the best tradition of British comic writing" said the Evening Chronicle. "The mix of anecdotes and moments of sheer farce make for an absorbing read" said the Evening Telegraph. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of aftershave.

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# Chelsea's symbol of Sixties jet-set put up for sale at £1.8m



On the market: The terrace house could fetch £1.8m

ANNE SPACKMAN

Commissioned by the Tennant family, designed by the architect of Annabel's and photographed for *Vogue* by Norman Parkinson, number 23 St Leonard's Terrace, Chelsea, could easily have challenged Centrepoint for listing as an architectural symbol of the Sixties. The building and the people who passed through it represented the Chelsea jet-set – as it was then called – in the way Bloomsbury stood for the Thirties.

The house is one of a row of listed Georgian terraces overlooking Sir Christopher Wren's Royal Hospital in west London. James Tennant needed the help of Sir Hugh Casson, then president of the Royal Academy, to negotiate planning permission for its redevelopment in 1969.

He commissioned the decorator John Fowler, of Colefax and Fowler fame, to pull out the interior and rebuild it as a contemporary home, and Fowler in turn brought in the distinguished architect Philip Webb, who carried out work for the Duke and Duchess of Devon-

shire and designed the Gorillaarium at John Aspinall's Howletts Zoo. This was despite Webb's reputation as a traditionalist and Fowler's name being inextricably linked with chintz.

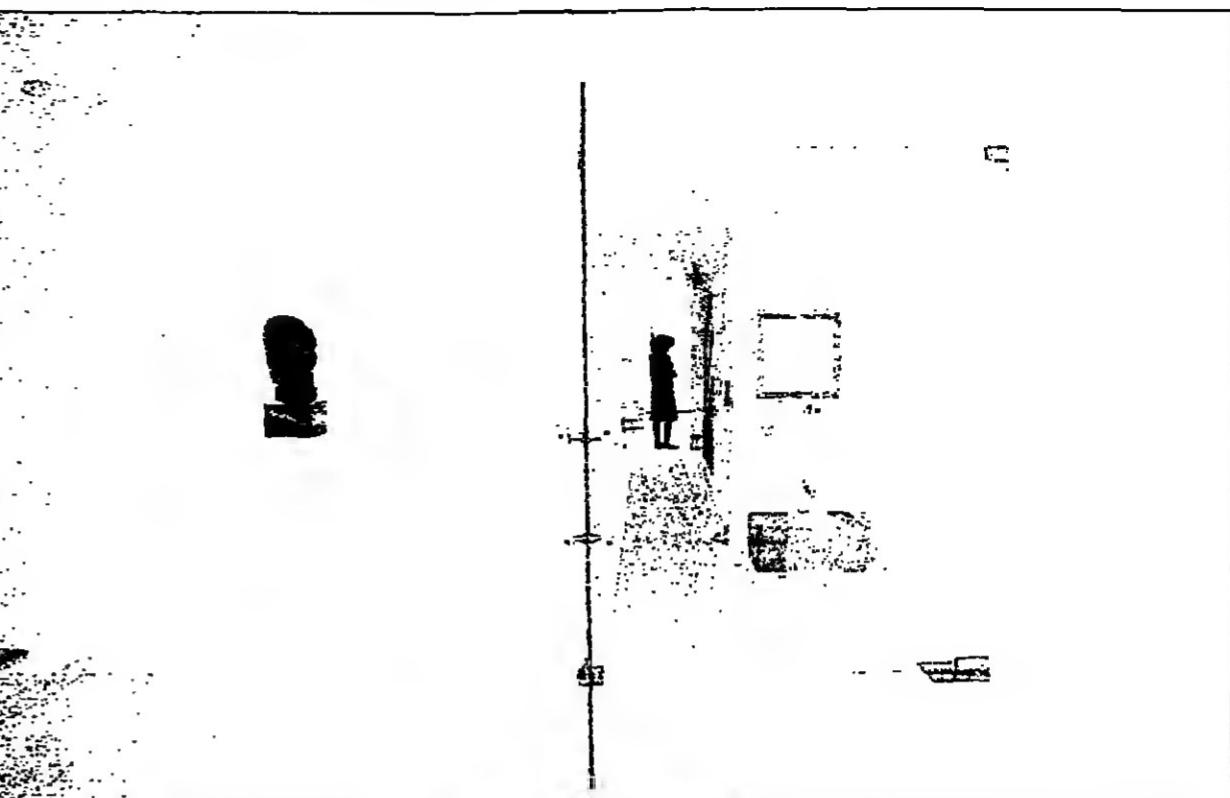
The house was built on a 10ft steel frame with a central staircase of glass, marble, chrome and brass. A 20ft window forms part of the double cube glass dining room at the back. The handles on the glass doors in the 50ft marble hall are made from elephant tusks set in silver with inlaid lapis lazuli.

But the house is not a shrine to the Sixties. It features furniture by Le Corbusier as well as Anthony Redmile and one of its three gardens is in the 17th century Italianate style.

The house, which has five bedrooms and three bathrooms, is now being sold on behalf of Elizabeth Edwards. James Tennant's widow, by Knight Frank and Rutley, Russell Simpson and Berkeley International for £1.8m.

It would make a suitable palace for a member of the rock royalty.

Homing device. Magazine



Living in style: The decorator John Fowler replaced the Georgian interior with Sixties chic. Photographs: Geraint Lewis

## Former judge renews attack on Howard

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Political Correspondent

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, yesterday stuck firmly to his plans for automatic life sentences for repeat violent and sexual offenders after Lord Donaldson, the former Master of the Rolls, attacked the Government as "despotic".

Defending his "two strikes and you're out" proposal that would impose mandatory life sentences for such offenders, Mr Howard insisted on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "The purpose of this proposal is to give the public that greater protection by ensuring that those who commit serious sexual or violent offences for a second time are not released until some assessment is made of the risk to the public. At the moment, if they don't get a life sentence, they are released even when everybody knows they still constitute a risk."

A source close to the Home Secretary said Mr Howard remained confident that his proposal had "public backing" because the Parole Board would always assess risks to the public before releasing a prisoner who had served the "tariff" set by the judge at the time of sentencing. "When you are dealing with a second-time violent offender, are people

really arguing that the risk to the public of releasing him shouldn't be considered?" the source said.

The proposal for judges to set the tariffs to be served by life prisoners was spelled out in private discussions between Mr Howard and Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, prior to the Home Secretary's party conference speech unveiling the plans.

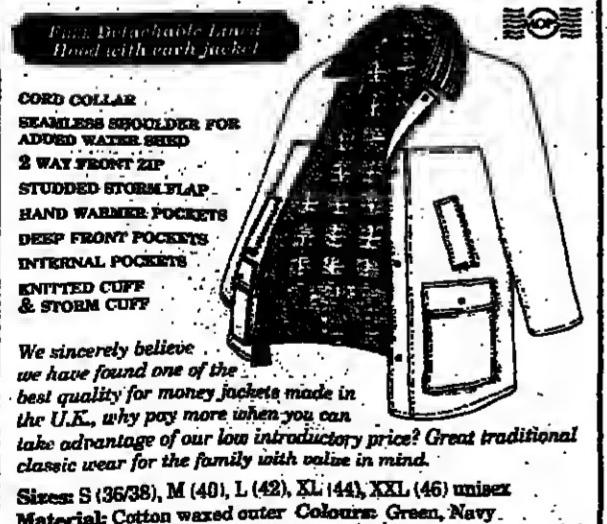
The Home Secretary is also said to have made clear that the "three strikes and you're out" proposal for minimum sentences for burglars and hard drug dealers would still allow judges to waive the minimum sentence in exceptional circumstances.

But Lord Donaldson insisted yesterday: "What worries me is any extension in mandatory life sentences where in effect the judge is being told by Parliament that they must hand over sentencing to the Home Secretary."

Mr Howard said there was no question of transferring sentencing powers to the Government and that the area of disagreement was "a narrow one".

Lord Donaldson has warned, however, of an unprecedented level of interference by politicians in the work of judges. He was speaking out because of "an entirely new development" which was triggering a constitutional crisis. Lord Taylor has also attacked the proposals for automatic life sentences.

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# international

**France at a standstill:** Franc battered by eighth day of stoppages and protests against Chirac's welfare reforms

## Strikers invade the runways at Orly

TONY BARBER  
Europe Editor

France's worst labour unrest since 1986 spread to Orly airport in Paris yesterday when 200 Air France ground personnel occupied two runways, stopping planes from landing and balking domestic and transatlantic departures. It was the first time that air traffic had been disrupted since public-sector workers and students launched a wave of strikes and demonstrations eight days ago in protest at the government's plan to reform the welfare state and curb state spending.

"France needs to work. Our economy is still convalescent. The government is determined to carry out the reforms it has announced, because it is a question of survival," the government spokesman, Alain Lamassoure, said in a statement warning that many companies would start to lay off workers if the strikes continued.

President Jacques Chirac's government must implement its austerity programme if France is to reduce its budget deficit sufficiently to meet the Maastricht treaty's conditions for joining a single European currency in 1999. French stocks and bonds slumped yesterday and the franc fell a centime to 3.4625 to the Mark as financial markets weighed the impact of the strikes on France's chances of meeting the criteria on time.

Even before dawn, the Paris region was locked in traffic

jams that extended for more than 200 miles as commuters sought a way round the strikes paralysing public-transport systems. The state rail network was almost completely shut down, there were no buses or Métro services in the capital, and thousands of Parisians cycled, roller-skated and walked to work.

The social unrest turned violent on Thursday night when about 30 people were injured in clashes in Paris and the western city of Nantes between riot police and youths throwing stones and petrol bombs. The clashes broke out on the fringes of protests organised by students who are demanding more resources for underfunded, over-crowded universities.

Employees in the education and health sectors are set to join the strikes on Monday, along with tax officials, customs staff and workers in the telecommunications industry. Unions at the Bank of France have called out its 20,000 staff for a two-day strike next Thursday and Friday.

Government officials said they had no intention yet of mobilising the army to help Parisians overcome the transport strikes. During a similar crisis in 1988, the authorities used 350 army trucks to take people around the city.

With the strikes breaking out so close to Christmas, Mr Chirac and his Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, may be calculating that public exasperation will increase to the point where union leaders will feel com-

elled to call off their protests.

The President has the power to dissolve the National Assembly and call a snap election or referendum on his policies, but his aides say such extreme action is unnecessary at the moment.

Government officials say that, while it may be possible to make more money available for universities, there must be no watering down of the plans announced by Mr Juppé last month for a fundamental overhaul of the social-security system. The system pays for health care, pensions and family allowances and, like the SNCF state railway network, is buried under a mountain of debt.

The government's aim is to

restore order to the public finances so that the budget deficit falls to 4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product next year and 3 per cent in 1997, enabling France to qualify for European monetary union. But the government's ability to meet these targets depends on the accuracy of its predictions for economic growth, and most economists believe these are too optimistic.

The government has forecast

2.9 per cent growth this year and 2.8 per cent in 1996, but few independent economists believe that growth will exceed 2.5 per cent this year and 2 per cent in 1996. The latest strikes are certain to weaken the economy by depressing output and could even result in a contraction of GDP for the last quarter of 1995.

All this means that the government may have to announce

still tougher austerity measures to meet its budget-deficit targets, a policy that runs the risk of provoking even more extensive labour unrest. "The risk remains that the austerity

package will depress private

spending more than expected,

making deficit reduction even

more difficult," said Jean-François Mercier, an economist at Salomon Brothers.

France's determination to meet the Maastricht conditions and launch the single currency on schedule also implies delaying an assault on unemployment, currently at 11.5

per cent. Mr Chirac won the election on a pledge to make job creation his priority, but switched course in late October to a strict diet of budgetary discipline.

### IN BRIEF

#### Soldiers arrested over bomb attack

Buenos Aires - The Argentine authorities raided the country's largest military base and arrested about a dozen people, including several soldiers, in connection with the 1994 car-bomb attack on a Jewish cultural centre in which 86 people were killed. Local media said the raid on the Campo de Mayo barracks, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, was ordered after arms caches were found nearby. Reuter

Aids test conviction Koblach - A court in Germany convicted three executives of the UB Plasma company and a laboratory assistant of distributing shoddily tested blood products, infecting at least three people with the HIV virus, which causes Aids. Reuter

#### Author acquitted

Istanbul - A Turkish security court acquitted Yasar Kemal, one of the country's best-known authors, who was charged with "provoking hatred and enmity" in an article for *Der Spiegel* magazine in Germany. In it he accused the authorities of "a campaign of lies" to hide systematic oppression, particularly of the Kurds. Reuter

#### Aid for dissidents

Cairo - King Hussein of Jordan has promised to help end Iraqi dissidents try to topple Saddam Hussein, but urged them to unite first, Iraqi opposition leaders say. AP

#### Aristide to marry

Port-au-Prince - Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the priest-turned-politician who outraged the Vatican with his fiery activism, has made another breach with his religious past: He says he is getting married. He did not name his fiancee nor the date of the wedding, but sources said his future bride is Mildred Trouillot, a Haitian-American lawyer who works in the Haitian Embassy in Washington. AP

#### Castro dons suit

Peking - The Cuban president, Fidel Castro, shed his military fatigues in favour of a dark suit to talk business with the Chinese Prime Minister, Li Peng. Mr Castro also greeted Mr Li with a simple handshake, eschewing the old-style socialist bear hug with which he greeted the Chinese Communist Party chief and President, Jiang Zemin, on Thursday. Reuter

#### Strike at 'Liberation'

Paris - The French daily *Liberation*, once the cult newspaper of a generation of left-wingers, plans to shed a quarter of its staff next year in a fresh attempt to stem losses. The newspaper's journalists, who would bear two-thirds of the 95 redundancies, have called a strike on Monday to oppose the proposed cuts. Reuter

#### New smoking bans

Singapore - Singapore, which already had the toughest anti-smoking laws in Asia, has tightened them further. Lighting up is now banned in air-conditioned shopping malls, pedestrian underpasses and outdoor public places where two or more people stand in queues, such as bus stops. AP

#### Second panda birth

Peking - Qingqing, a 19-year-old resident of the Giant Panda Research Center in China's Fujian province, has given birth for the second year in succession, even though most female pandas in captivity become infertile at about 16. AP

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Evasive action: A cyclist avoids cars overturned by young people after university students protested in Jussieu

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**Bosnia peace deal:** As troops prepare to leave, Sarajevo's French commander attacks US motives and raises fears for Serbs

False alarm: Bosnian Serb police detain blindfolded men arrested near the front line. They turned out to be Serbs

Photograph: Reuter

## Toddlers who crave love and cuddles

EMMA DALY  
Tuzla

As orphans go, Nasa Djeta seems a warm and friendly place: a few toys lie scattered about, a few pictures – abstract expressionism from the underives – are pinned to the walls. But the 40 children who live in three rooms above a kindergarten in the industrial town of Tuzla, in northern Bosnia, are starved of love and attention, traumatised by living through nearly four years of war and domestic conflict.

"The children have nothing," Melika Aljefendic, director of Nasa Djeta ("Our Children"), said. "We need so much for a normal life – television and video, a car, a doctor..."

At present, the children are isolated at the home because they have no transport – even for trips to the hospital – and money for food will run out at the end of the year.

The charity War-Child, founded in 1993 by two film-makers (and parents) horrified by what they saw while covering the Croatian war, plans to supply food and a vehicle for the next year, with money raised from *Independent* readers. Funding the orphanage for 12 months will cost £80,000, and will ensure the children at least have a place to call home.

"There is a great difference between our children and those from the kindergarten: here it's almost impossible to keep any kind of order when food comes or visitors arrive. They want and need a bit more love," Jasminka Stanisovic explained.

Ms Stanisovic, a nurse, looks after the oldest group – three-to-five-year-olds – who live in a large, cheerful room filled with furniture to scale: tiny tables and chairs, a row of miniature beds. There are a few toys and murals on the wall; small lockers and cups named for each child.



The women working at Nasa Djeta frequently hug the children. There are a few toys and murals on the wall, small lockers and cups named for each child. But there is the same, inevitable and desperate need among the children for affection and attention.

Tariq, a small blond boy, was cradled in the translator's arms. No one is sure what happened to his family, but they know he arrived at the orphanage as a tiny baby from the town of Breko, which had fallen to the Serbs. Nirvana, dark and silent, is here with her sister because both her parents are in an asylum.

"They are not all orphans – some have been abandoned, or perhaps the mother is dead and the father in the army," Ms Aljefendic said. "One child's mother was raped (by Serb soldiers). She did not abandon him, but her brothers, her family, would not let her bring the child home... so he is here."

The mother is able to visit only occasionally.

But another woman did return to the orphanage recently to claim her son. "I think she was raped too," Ms Aljefendic said. "She has found a job, so she is able to raise her child."

Over the past couple of years the orphanage has managed to place around 30 children with adoptive parents, but new arrivals appear all too often.

One small girl whispers the word "mama" – every strange adult who appears is "mother" or "father" to these children, a triumph, for the majority, of hope over experience.



Reunited: Besir Jolic plays with his son Amir (right) and his niece Belma, 2, after a four-year separation. Belma's father died escaping from Srebrenica

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## international

# Nato to deploy advance force

KURT SCHORK

Reuter

Sarajevo — Nato agreed yesterday to send the first 2,600 troops of a 60,000-strong force to police a Bosnia peace settlement, but the UN commander for Sarajevo openly criticised the deal and warned it might be unworkable.

Nato ambassadors meeting in Brussels agreed to dispatch an "enabling force" of American, French and British troops who are expected to start arriving in Bosnia early next week to check that roads and airfields can take heavy military traffic.

The Nato decision came after a major obstacle to the participation of 20,000 American troops in the force was removed when the Senate Republican leader, Bob Dole, gave his reluctant backing in Washington. Mr Dole announced he was drafting a resolution of support for the Bosnia mission.

But the French UN commander for Sarajevo, General Jean-René Bacheler, said the deal brokered in Dayton, Ohio, by the US government had been forced through to promote President Bill Clinton's re-election campaign.

The general also attacked a clause bringing Serb suburbs of Sarajevo under the control of the Muslim-Croat government.

General Bacheler said Sarajevo Serbs would flee in their thousands.

"We would then watch French soldiers on television screens directing traffic while houses are burning," he said.

Bosnian Serb sources in Pale

yesterday said Serb civilians

have begun leaving suburbs to be handed over but described it as a trickle rather than a rush.

General Bacheler accused chief US negotiator Richard Holbrooke of seeking "to obtain at whatever cost an agreement to serve the electoral interests of an American candidate".

However, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo, Alexander Ivanko, said: "We at the higher com-

mand fully support the Dayton agreement".

It was the second time that France has questioned the Dayton pact. On Wednesday President Jacques Chirac was reported to have written to Mr Clinton demanding guarantees for the Serbs living in Sarajevo.

A French newspaper said yesterday that the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, had offered Paris help in freeing two detained French airmen in exchange for its support for a better deal for Sarajevo's Serbs. *Le Figaro* quoted Italian writer Daniel Salvatore Schiffier, a go-between for Bosnian Serbs in the past, as saying: "Karadzic thinks he has a good chance of achieving the release of the pilots if Jacques Chirac makes a positive gesture."

A Foreign Ministry official in Paris insisted yesterday that there was no connection between Mr Chirac's letter to Mr Clinton and the fate of the missing flyers, shot down over Serb-held Bosnia in August.

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## international

Alliance leadership: New Secretary-General faces crucial tests over Bosnia, expanding to the East and forging new ties with the EU

# Spanish joy as Solana wins Nato job

ELIZABETH NASH  
Madrid  
TONY BARBER  
London

Spain's Foreign Minister, Javier Solana, was named yesterday as Nato's new Secretary-General, ending six weeks of embarrassing uncertainty over who should lead the world's strongest military alliance.

Diplomats in Brussels said a consensus had formed around Mr Solana as the best man to replace Willy Claes, who resigned in October because of a corruption scandal in his native

Belgium. "We have a new Secretary-General", the US ambassador, Robert Hunter, said. "We are delighted by the selection of Mr Solana."

"The 16 support Solana," said Carlos Miranda, Spain's ambassador to Nato, after an informal meeting of the alliance's ambassadors. "This is a very good and important day for Spain."

The main barrier to Solana's appointment was removed on Thursday, when officials in Washington indicated the United States would throw its weight behind him, even though Spain

is not fully integrated into Nato's military command structure. Many European allies had already backed him.

Mr Hunter said: "Minister Solana has great potential to become an outstanding Secretary General at a critical time."

Despite not being an official candidate, Mr Solana emerged as the front-runner for the job after the US effectively vetoed the former Dutch prime minister, Ruud Lubbers. Simultaneously, France and Greece did the same for the former Danish foreign minister, Uffe Elleman-Jensen.

British officials dismissed as "totally without foundation" reports in the Spanish and British media that Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, had opposed Mr Solana because he campaigned against Spanish membership of Nato in the early 1980s.

However, 35 US Congressmen made public their opposition to Mr Solana this week when they told the Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, in a letter, that it would be "totally inappropriate" to appoint him since Spain is not fully integrated into Nato's military com-

munity. They said Mr Solana also was unacceptably critical of the US trade embargo on Cuba.

State Department sources said Mr Christopher regarded him as a close friend who was deeply committed to strengthening US-European relations.

Mr Christopher meets Mr Solana in Madrid today.

Mr Christopher arrives in Madrid before President Bill Clinton, who will sign a "transatlantic agenda" document with Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, and the Spanish Prime Minister, Felipe González, tomorrow.

The "agenda" includes co-operation beyond traditional trade and security matters to include operations against terrorism and drug trafficking.

Mr Solana's departure would remove from the Spanish scene Mr Gonzalez's most likely successor as leader of an effete Socialist Party that faces general elections in March. Mr Solana, has been close to Mr Gonzalez since the 1970s, and is the only minister remaining from the original cabinet formed in 1982 after the Socialists won a landslide election.

Although he had been a vocal opponent of Nato in the Seventies, as the government's spokesman, he backed the 1986 referendum campaign in favour of Spain's continuing membership of the alliance.

Since the beginning of the war in Bosnia, he has advocated a tougher European line in the Balkans. Spain has become identified with the drive for greater EU defence integration.

Under Mr Solana's leadership, Nato will have to take crucial decisions concerning Bosnia, the question of mem-



Javier Solana: Gained US support at the last minute

bership for Central and Eastern European nations, and the forging of new links with the Western European Union, the EU's putative defence organisation.

He will also be at the centre of efforts to create a European pillar for Nato, while not undermining the Atlantic link.

## Papandreu's heirs wait on dying words

ANDREW GUMBEL  
Athens

As Andreas Papandreu lies hooked up to lung and kidney support systems in an Athens hospital and the undeclared battle for his succession rages, one thought is haunting his

What if he ruins all the back-room negotiations and, in his dying breath, names his own successor as Prime Minister and leader of his socialist movement, Pasok? Even worse, what if the name he comes up with pleases nobody but himself and the man - or woman - that he designs?

One nightmare scenario, though admittedly an unlikely one, is that he will plump for Mimi, his glamorous but broadly disliked young wife who has jealously guarded over his private office for the past two years and who has been watching over him day and night since he entered hospital 12 days ago. One senior Pasok member was clear: "You never know the whims of

a dying man. But if he does that, we'll all pretend not to hear."

Mr Papandreu would not have to go so far, though, to sow the seeds of discord in party ranks. A name like Akis Tsochatzopoulos, his loyal Interior Minister and official stand-in as prime minister, would also go down badly with many militants, who see him as a bully-boy, and would risk exacerbating the rifts that already exist between pro- and anti-Papandreu camps within Pasok.

Officially, government members insist Mr Papandreu is still in charge, even though he can communicate only through facial gestures and handwriting.

"Last time I saw him communicating, three days ago, he wrote the words: 'I will survive,'" Eleftherios Kyriakis, the government spokesman, said.

However, the latest thinking is that the roles of prime minister and party leader might be divided, with either Gerasimos Arsenis, the Defence Minister, or Costas Simitis, a leading Pasok dissident, taking the pre-

miership, and Mr Tsochatzopoulos controlling the party. Mr Arsenis and Mr Simitis are economic specialists with a broadly pro-European outlook.

Time may be running out, since Mr Papandreu's doctors have been unable to take him off the artificial respirator that sustained him for most of last week and has done so again since Tuesday. Mr Papandreu also underwent a fourth course of kidney dialysis yesterday.

There is now talk of transferring the Prime Minister to a more powerful heart-lung machine, or even of performing a tracheotomy to enable him to breathe independently through an opening in his throat. Neither prospect is reassuring for a frail 76-year-old with a history of serious heart problems.

Meanwhile, on the streets of Athens, the mood is turning to one of discomfort at Mr Papandreu's agony. "Why do they torture him like this? They should turn the machines off and let him die with dignity," one shopkeeper said.

The collapse of the commission is an embarrassing setback for the conservative opposition Popular Party, which had called it into being.

The Supreme Court, which is conducting its own investigation into the GAL scandal, is pondering whether to call Mr Goncalvez in connection with covert



Dying light: 2,700 candles in front of the Belem tower, in Lisbon, commemorate, on World AIDS Day yesterday, those in Portugal who have died of the disease

## Bolivia starts digging for Che's remains

PHIL DAVISON  
Latin America Correspondent

For 28 years and 50 days, Bolivian domestic aircraft may have been landing on Che Guevara's remains at the dusty Vallegrande airstrip more than 400 miles south of the capital, La Paz.

Yesterday, officials began digging up part of the dirt runway for what is left of the Argentine-born revolutionary who became a worldwide symbol of social change after joining Fidel Castro in the Cuban revolution.

The Bolivians did not expect to find much. Che's hands were cut off after he was killed in 1967 and Bolivian army officers tried to burn his body before tossing him into a grave with other Marxist guerrillas. His thick black beard and wavy hair may help with identification.

Almost three decades later, President Gonzalo Sanchez de Loza decided Ernesto "Che" (the Argentine version of "Body") Guevara's remains should be returned to his family for a Catholic burial.

Retired General Mario Vargas, 62, who as a 34-year-old army captain witnessed the secret burial at 11pm on 11 October 1967, led investigators from a presidential commission to the site. At first, he could not recall the spot but apparently had his memory jogged by two local people who had watched the night-time burial.

Although Bolivian army officers had put Che's body on public display in a Vallegrande hospital laundry room, and published famous photographs to prove to the world he was dead, they later panicked as the dead guerrilla's Christ-like im-

age as a corpse only increased his mystique. They buried him in a secret communal grave and remained silent until General Vargas led the presidential investigators to the site.

Trained as a doctor in Argentina, Guevara joined Fidel Castro's revolutionary forces in Mexico before landing in Cuba and helping to overthrow the dictator, Fulgencio Batista, in 1959.

As Mr Castro's right-hand man, he served in the government before returning to Argentina to fight for Marxist revolution in 1964. In early 1967, he tried to "export the revolution" to Bolivia but was captured on 8 October that year, a useless, rusting carbine in his hands. He was shot the following day, his last words: "Go ahead and shoot. You are a coward but you are shooting a man."

Guevara has relatives in both Argentina and Cuba. His eldest daughter, Hilda, died of cancer at the age of 39 in Havana in August, leaving behind Che's grandson, Camilo Guevara, a 21-year-old rock guitarist.

Cuba and left-wing politicians in Argentina have requested his remains. His hands, at first sent to Argentina for fingerprint checks, ended up in Cuba, where Mr Castro preserved and retained them in a secret vault.

Mr Castro has encouraged Guevara's martyr image even more than his own - Che's face looks down from buildings around Cuba and from ubiquitous T-shirts.

Way down in Vallegrande, the tourism potential is lost on Mayor Hoover Cabrera. He wants Che's remains untouched and the Che museum at the "historic site".

## Dirty-war inquiry blocked

Madrid — Spain's ruling Socialist Party, which has resisted opposition efforts to investigate its role in a dirty war against Basques in the 1980s, yesterday succeeded in killing a Senate inquiry that sought to question two former ministers, writes Elizabeth Nash.

The inquiry was set up three weeks ago to investigate whether the Socialist government had been responsible for the so-called Anti-terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL) — death squads. But the Socialists were able to muster the votes of the Catalan and Basque nationalists to reject plans to call the former defence minister, Nar-

cis Serra, and the former interior minister, Jose Barrionuevo. The Catalan nationalist party had earlier said it would support the questioning of the two former ministers. Their defection drew the teeth of the 32-strong inquiry, which yesterday threw in the towel and decided to dissolve itself.

The collapse of the commission is an embarrassing setback for the conservative opposition Popular Party, which had called it into being.

The Supreme Court, which is conducting its own investigation into the GAL scandal, is pondering whether to call Mr Goncalvez in connection with covert

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## international

# China glowers as Taiwan goes to the polls

STEPHEN VINES  
Hong Kong

China's leaders must be facing increasing frustration in their attempts to influence today's legislative elections in Taiwan, the immensely wealthy offshore island which they regard as a renegade province.

First, they have no experience of democratic elections. Secondly, they are supposed to be indifferent to their outcome in Taiwan. Thirdly, they desperately want the Taiwanese voters to give the thumbs down to President Lee Teng-hui and others who are seen as encouraging the further separation of Taiwan from the Chinese mainland.

This probably explains why Shen Guofang, China's foreign ministry spokesman, was so evasive when questioned about whether the Chinese government was trying to influence the election by holding a series of threatening military exercises off Taiwan's coast.

The military action is backed up by Cultural Revolution-style rhetoric. On Tuesday the Peking-controlled *Wen Wei Po* newspaper in Hong Kong wrote in glowing terms of how, "for the sake of unification of the motherland, the Fujian (the province facing Taiwan) people will once again not grudge having to make sacrifices."

It may be no more than sabre-rattling. But the Hong Kong and Taiwan press are full stories of how the Chinese gov-

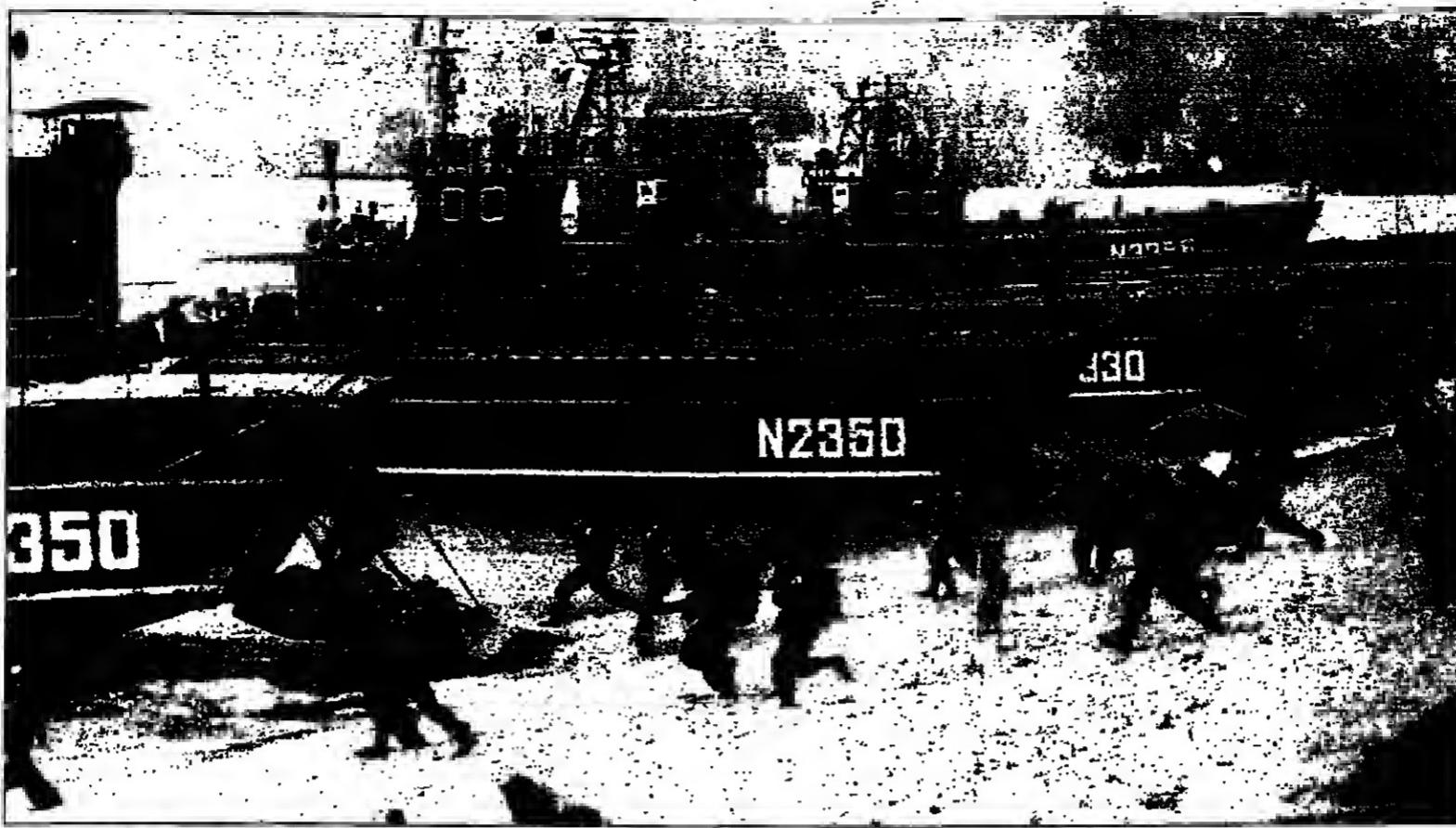
ernment has changed the criteria for dealing with Taiwan by military means. A widely leaked Chinese government document, allegedly from a Taiwan policy committee headed by President Jiang Zemin, states that the previous criteria for deciding on the need for an invasion should Taiwan declare independence is too narrow.

According to the document it is necessary to consider military means to counter "covert independence", which means President Lee's policy of perpetuating the division of the motherland, and deliberate procrastination in reunification talks. In these circumstances China would be justified in launching a small-scale military invasion to combat a small-scale independence movement.

The effect of all this military posturing in Taiwan has oscillated from extreme concern to indifference. The local stock market is more than ever like a roller-coaster as mood-swing are reflected in the price of shares.

Yesterday, President Lee hit back at China's threats, insisting: "The ballot is stronger than the bullet." He told a group of visiting US former senators and administration officials: "The military exercises ... are negative, and the actions of Communist China are unwise."

A government official dealing with China relations said that he was aware of growing



Show of strength: Chinese ground, air and naval forces mounting a joint exercise this week in Fujian province, which faces Taiwan

pressure from the Chinese military for greater leeway in taking action against Taiwan, and was taking it seriously.

Lee Kuo-hsing, a politics professor at the National

Chengchi University, said that although there was "an increased sense of risk", he believed that there were "weak reasons for military action" and he reckoned that China would

worry about the international reaction.

China's ham-fisted election strategy is to weaken both the outright pro-independence forces in Taiwan and the ma-

jority faction in the foot without its assistance. Indeed, the threats from Peking may well have the effect of rallying support for a party which is deeply divided and surrounded by the

pungent aroma of corruption.

The Kuomintang is now

more openly split than at any

time since Chiang Kai-shek

brought his defeated forces to

Taiwan in 1949.

Two leading members, the

former prime minister, Hu

Pei-kuo, and Lin Yang-kang,

are declared runners in the

March presidential election,

the first in Taiwan's history.

Other senior Kuomintang

officials have also entered the

race against President Lee, in

cluding an 82-year-old former

senior adviser to the President,

Henry Kao.

Meanwhile, the breakaway New Party, with an outspoken programme of remunification with the mainland, is making some headway among younger middle-class Kuomintang sup-

ports and old-guard military

warlords.

The splits in the ruling party will probably do little to prevent President Lee from being re-elected but they pose serious problems for the Kuomintang in today's poll. The pro-indepen-

dence Democratic Progressive

Party is rubbing its hands as the

ruling party falls apart, and

stands to make gains from a split

in the conservative vote.

It is even possible that the

Kuomintang will lose its over-

all majority in the legislature.

This would move Taiwan into

uncharted waters, as the legi-

slative and executive wings of

government have never before

been controlled by different

parties.

## Ex-president could face death penalty

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
Tokyo

Roh Tae Woo, the disgraced former president of South Korea, has chosen an intriguing book for his bedtime reading. Every night, before the lights go out in the Seoul Detention House, where he is being held pending imminent bribery charges, Mr Roh reads a few pages of the memoirs of Margaret Thatcher.

Broadly, there are parallels between the two former leaders: both presided over periods of boom in their country's economies, only to be stabbed in the back, as they saw it, by younger men whose careers they had nurtured. But if Mr Roh is looking for consolation, he will find little in *The Downing Street Years*.

While Baroness Thatcher promoted free-market monetarism and the small businessman, Mr Roh enriched Korea's giant corporations with a vigorous programme of state intervention and protectionism. While she was ousted by her own party, Mr Roh handed his presidency to a trusted successor in 1993. And if Lady Thatcher had the consolation of a peerage and a bag of lucrative directorships, Mr Roh has no such perks to look forward to.

After owing up in October to a huge personal slush-fund worth \$650m (£420m), he stands a good chance of receiving a life sentence for corruption. Now, as the scandal widens, he faces an even grimmer possibility: death by hanging, on charges of treason and mass murder.

Amid mounting public hysteria, the government of President Kim Young Sam finished details this week of a new law which will allow Mr Roh and his predecessor, Chun Doo Hwan, to be prosecuted for the 1979 coup which brought them to power. Prosecutors have summoned Mr Choi for questioning today.

The coup, and the infamous Kwangju massacre, in which

hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators were killed by paratroopers, occurred just outside the 15-year statute of limitations. Officials told journalists in Seoul that the constitution will be amended to overcome this obstacle.

A special law will then be drafted allowing for the prosecution of the coup leaders and their eventual execution.

Constitutional amendments must be approved by a national referendum but in the current atmosphere of hatred against Mr Roh there is little doubt that it would gain overwhelming public approval.

All week there have been daily demonstrations, some of them violent, calling for the prosecution of the two men. In Kwangju itself, 800 students fought riot police on Wednesday, and demanded an independent inquiry into both the slush-fund scandal and the massacre. Opposition parties accuse President Kim of hypocrisy in his pursuit of Mr Roh, who founded the ruling Democratic Liberal Party. There is no change in the nature of Kim, who took power by joining hands with the slaughterers, Kwangju students shouted.

The crisis has provoked a more than usually tense atmosphere on the border with Communist North Korea. Yesterday, Mr Kim urged extra vigilance, saying that there had been worrying signs of North Korean activity. "They are also building up fighter planes and bombers near the demilitarised zone [between the two countries]," a spokesman quoted Mr Kim as saying. "We must firmly cope with any aggressive attempts by the North Koreans," he said. "Our political and social atmosphere could be read as a sign of a weakened security posture on our part."

Twenty-nine political activists campaigning for unity between the two countries have been arrested under the draconian national security law.

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# Something wrong in cider country

Paddy Ashdown's concern about racist attacks in Yeovil highlighted a problem seething beneath the surface of Middle England. Peter Popham visits a West Country battleground

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Luthur Rahman wanted out. The son of Bengali parents, 23 years old, born and raised in London's East End, he wanted to break free of the criminality of his surroundings in Upton Park to have a crack at running his own business, and to make a new life. After leaving school, he and two friends worked hard and saved money. When they had enough, they cast around for a part of the country where Indian restaurants were in short supply.

They hit upon Yeovil (pop. 40,000) in the southern part of the county, Somerset, where ethnic groups are practically non-existent, amounting to half of one per cent – almost the lowest rate in the country. Last year, Luthur and his friends took the plunge. They bought a property, moved down and on 13 October, opened The Viceroy Tandoori.

It's a cosy place – impressionist prints in gold frames are set in small baize-lined alcoves, and pleated beige-coloured cotton covers the walls and ceiling. It's like eating dinner inside a hat box. The friends' move seemed a great idea. But the Viceroy's honeymoon was brief. Within weeks, a crowd of toughs had begun prey on the place, going round after the pubs closed, ordering food then throwing it around, smashing toilets, splitting racial abuse. Yeovil was beginning to make Upton Park look friendly.

Six weeks after the opening, the same people came back and smashed the windows. This was to happen half a dozen more times. In between, the drunken assaults continued and staff were kicked, punched and threatened with mur-

der if they gave evidence in court. The restaurant was urinated on, eggs were thrown, graffiti was sprayed on the outside walls saying "Pakistan go home, Pakis smell".

On 8 October this year, the usual people turned up with a house-for-sale sign with which they tried to break the windows once again. They attacked staff in the kitchen, and within minutes, 10 friends arrived as reinforcements. Luthur, a painfully slight, boyish figure, realised his restaurant was under siege. He and his colleagues barricaded themselves inside. The violence continued for half an hour, at which point the mob outside had grown to about 50. Five police cars arrived, a number of arrests were made and charges were brought. The next day, a kebab restaurant a few doors up the road was fire-bombed.

These are shocking events to occur in a small, uneventful West Country market town in 1995. But you would probably not be reading about them if something much more attention-grabbing had not happened last week – Paddy Ashdown, the town's MP, alerted to its racist violence, went for a late-night walkabout and ended up fighting off a knifeman. With Ashdown's commando reflexes and his alleged assailant's Manson-like stare splashed over newspapers, Yeovil finds itself squirming under most unwelcome attention.

Surrounded though it is by pretty countryside and chocolate-box villages, Yeovil is decidedly short on charm. Home to Westland Helicopters and much light industry, it is a casebook study of how, post-World War II, to ruin a perfectly

nice little place. Ring road, pedestrian precinct, ugly new shops, out-of-town stores – Yeovil has the lot. And unlike, say, Taunton or Worcester, it has little save its rusticity to compensate. Middle Street, the town's main shopping street, at the bottom of which the Viceroy and the town's nine other ethnic restaurants are grouped, is festooned with To Let signs.

But lack of charm does not account for the rampall terror visited weekly on the Viceroy and its near-neighbours. Racial incidents in a town without racial minorities sound ridiculous, unthinkable. But according to Rev Mark Ellis, vicar of St Michael's parish church, the unthinkable is exactly what is happening. "People assume racial harassment is a problem only of inner-city areas where there are ghettos and clearly-defined racial neighbourhoods," he says. "But racism is endemic throughout the country. Yeovil is a town with so little going for it – good community, good facilities, good educational opportunities, high employment, no bad housing, yet we still have a few people who bully ethnic minorities. And in a small community, it is more difficult for these families to protect themselves because they are so obviously on their own."

"Most people in the community don't see the problem. They don't know it is going on."

Conversations on the streets of the town confirm Mr Ellis's view that apathy is widespread. "It's all been blown up in the press since Paddy was attacked," a housewife said. "There are a few bad apples

but all this stuff in the media will make it worse." A young tattooed man out shopping with his wife and baby echoed this view: "There are some ignorant bastards in the town, and most of them hang around at the bottom of Middle Street. It's not a race problem. We haven't got a race problem here."

Mr Ellis, Paddy Ashdown and other community leaders have now launched what they call a Partnership Against Racial Harassment (Parh) to combat the problem. "Since we formed Parh," Mr Ellis says, "we have had a tremendous amount of support and messages of

prejudiced way through lack of knowledge".

"There is an element that has been causing harassment for some time and the people subjected to it have been too scared to come forward," she says. "They lack confidence, because they don't think anybody would listen."

"The incidents that have come to light have been very bad. There is constant verbal abuse, which must be very wearing. Yeovil isn't a bad place, but a group of individuals who are not representative of the town are causing great distress to people who are trying to get on and run a business. A lot of people in the town feel very upset about this. The partnership will be a positive step in drawing together people who want to put an end to this."

Several of the victims of violence are bitter about what they regard as slowness and ineffectualness in dealing with the problem. Denying the charge, Supt Ted Allen says that his officers are experienced in dealing with racist incidents, which have been rising in recent months, and which are drug-related. "This is not organised racism, but pure vandalism," he says. "The restaurants and take-aways have suffered some quite horrendous situations. Because of that, we have been running special operations at weekends to put more uniforms on the streets and we have been looking at other ways of overcoming the problems. We want to try to prevent this happening and catch those responsible."

But Paddy Ashdown is quietly critical of some police attitudes. "We had a meeting of community

leaders to discuss incidents of racial harassment, and a representative of the police suggested that when there was trouble at one restaurant, staff from the other ethnic restaurants should club together with them in self-defence. I said absolutely not – it's our problem as a community. It's our job to protect them, not their job to protect themselves."

It is not, Ashdown insists, a problem peculiar to Yeovil. Late-night vandalism has unfortunately become the norm in town centres across the country. But I am concerned because it's happening here in an extreme fashion. My clear view, backed by all that I've learned, is that this is not political in the sense that the BNP is behind it. And I don't want it to come to that. It's an extension of the vandalism.

Those who have had a skillful or clever or older think that in addition to breaking plate-glass windows, it would be a useful extension to do a bit of 'Paki-hashing', as well.

"It's a form of the brutalisation of our society. People turn against the vulnerable. Afterward, they may justify it as hatred of blacks, but that's all it is. The group responsible are a small number of recidivists, perhaps 10 or 12 in their mid-20s, not young, not unemployed. I know their names, though I'm not going to tell you. I'm determined to put a stop to it, so Yeovil can be ahead of the rest of the country, not behind it."

Ashdown's custom of throwing himself into the heart of the fray, whether the war zone is Bosnia or Middle Street, may have given Yeovil a prominence it doesn't

deserve. This year, thugs in Taunton have put three young Bangladeshis in hospital; in Fruin, a Pakistani family has been forced to abandon their business. There have been a total of 19 serious racist incidents around the county so far this year.

But Ashdown's unusually direct approach to his responsibilities means some help may be at hand for Yeovil's tiny community of ethnic restaurateurs. As he was lucky to discover, plain-clothes police are operating in the town centre late at night. Ashdown is now pushing for installation of closed-circuit television in Middle Street. There is talk of installing a radio network linked to the police station, so help can be summoned without delay.

These measures are too late, however, for Luthur Rahman, whose main hope now is to escape Yeovil unscathed. "This restaurant is the seed from which we hoped much would grow," he says, "but the seed has been flattened at the first attempt. Now the restaurant is in the red, but, of course, with all the adverse publicity it's impossible to sell it. The time we've been here has been no better than a prison sentence."

Yeovil is caught in a strange dilemma – do nothing and the violence of a few criminals could force the ethnic restaurateurs to flee the town – a shameful conclusion. Protect them properly and it may burden itself with the paraphernalia of a far larger, grimmer sort of confrontation. Closed-circuit television in the centre of Yeovil will be the final blow that the late-20th century has to inflict on this formerly innocent town.



The victims: Luthur Rahman and Akbor Hussein fended off a siege at the Viceroy Tandoori in Yeovil.

## Jo Brand's week

**Skimming the obituaries** during the week, as I often do due to being such a miserable old trout on the quiet, I was saddened to read of the death of Stuart Henry, with whom I spent many nights during my teenage years. As a Radio Luxembourg DJ, he joined me under the covers on many occasions at very low volume, so my mum would not hear when she popped her head round the door. He was there the night I plucked my eyebrows into one line of hair, achieving what I thought was the attractive Seventies' look of a surprised alien and the warning from my mum that they would never grow back. How right she was. Stuart Henry faded from the airwaves because he had multiple sclerosis, leading people to imagine, in the early stages of the illness, that he was either drunk, or in that nauseating Radio 1 speak, smoking "funny baccy". The reason that people didn't know he was ill was because he didn't tell them. Who can blame him? People with degenerative illnesses are about as welcome in this society as I am at Champneys.

**sophisticated gadgets**, I wonder whether the people who work in such places are struggling to keep up with the intellectual demands of all this change, because they all seem to be morons who have no idea what they are talking about – nor care. I have become frustrated to the point of near violence with the lads who work in mobile phone shops. They're quite happy to sell you a load of eack without letting an eyelid – if you can get them to serve you, at the risk of interrupting their fascinating conversation. (You may be thinking that any twat who owns a mobile phone deserves this sort of treatment, but it's dead handy to have when I'm on my own in the car and also for phoning ahead to the Chinese takeaway for a large portion of number 54.)

A friend who recently bought a computer was given the wrong accessories, the wrong advice, the wrong everything. I'm surprised he actually got the computer and not a large turmp. It is a cliché that computer nerds and technophiles have no social graces, but the apparent lack of interest in, or knowledge of, their subject places these shop workers high on the list of those most likely to be exterminated in my New Year's Honours List. I don't know why the baddies in the new Bond film are bothering to try and destroy everything



electronic in the UK; between them, the manufacturers and retailers are making a good job of it on their own.

Incidentally, it is amusing to watch the actors in the confused, anachronistic pile of pap that is the new James Bond film talking seriously about their work. So the baddie can crash people to death with her thighs? Given her name is Xenia Onatopp, they should have me. I could have just sat on them.



Move over Xenia and let me have a go

**The consolation** I had when my fave team Crystal Palace went down in the First Division was that I would be able to watch them on terrestrial telly, being unable to bring myself to line Ruper Murdoch's wallet a bit more. I now discover that he has got his sweaty little mitts on the Euston League as well. Is it good for footie? Balls.

France is about to restrict the expansion of vast shopping centres that ring cities. Small shopkeepers are being driven out of business. We have a similar problem here. In London, there appear to be Ikeas at the very corners of the city. I've never been to Ikea, but friends tell me it's hell at the weekend as desperate shoppers vie for parking and consuming. Why do we want to flock to worship at the altar of Scandinavian furniture en masse when we can't stand each other the rest of the time? I'd rather have less choice and a bit more breathing space.

**Teenage mag** hit the headlines this week as *TV Hitz* was withdrawn from Sainsbury's, Tesco and Asda. What could have offended them so much? The double standards of teenage magazines that tell young women to respect and think for themselves and then force boys, fashion, boys, diets, boys, make-up and boys down their gullets? No. They're all up in arms about fellatio. Why should that be any more shocking than letters from girls aged 13 asking whether they should have sex with their boyfriend? Any orifice in that game is much the same as any other, in my book.

The sexual act is splashed across every tabloid from here to kingdom come. Parents who are concerned about their child's sexual awakening seem to me to be far outweighed by the many that couldn't give a toss. These magazines are responding to what they see to be a demand. Who can blame them, given the climate elsewhere? The shrinking of childhood now into just a few years is what depresses me. This same debate will blow up again in 10 years' time. I expect, but next time it won't be a teenage mag, it will be the *Beano*.

### SEND A BABY BOX TO BOSNIA THIS CHRISTMAS FOR ONLY £30

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials – not what you'd think of giving someone for Christmas. But for a desperate mother in Bosnia trying to keep her child safe from infection, these basic essentials would mean the world.

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Feed the Children has delivered baby boxes full of essential items directly into the hands of 11,000 mothers in Bosnia – many of whom will be sheltering in freezing schools, factories, and bombed-out houses this winter.

Please, if you possibly can, send a baby box to Bosnia this Christmas – and help a mother keep her baby safe.

#### What's inside?

- 300 nappies
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Call 0990 600610 now to tell us how many baby boxes you would like to send. OR please complete and return the form.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ baby box(es) at £30 each on my behalf.

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Last three digits of Switch card no. \_\_\_\_\_

Switch Issue no. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date / Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to send a message to a Bosnian mother, please send it with your donation and we will put it in your baby box. Please send to: Feed the Children, Dept 400, FREEPOST, Reading RG1 1SR.

Registered charity no. 503236

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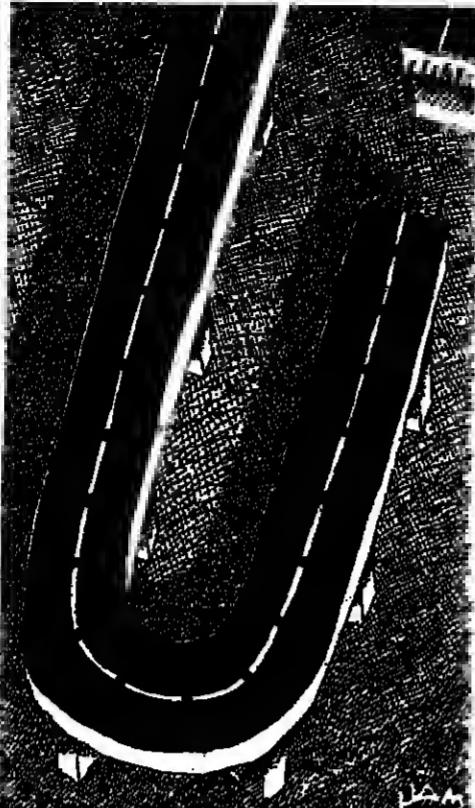
ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2435

# The Government policy that was lost in transit

One of the great planks of Tory dogma was quietly, almost secretly buried last week when Kenneth Clarke and the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, combined in ditch the Government's previously much-cherished road-building programme. The years of telling us that roads are essential for economic prosperity are now history. The war fought by the Dongas tribe of Twyford Down, the tree people of Batsheatham as well as by the stout Tyl ladies of Staines near the M25 has been won. The national road-building programme will now consist of a few drabs and drabs, the odd bypass or trunk road widening scheme.

It is a momentous event, yet it was deliberately hidden among all the other news of the Budget because it begs more questions than the Government at present is able to answer. Indeed, there was more than a touch of dishonesty about what happened on Budget day. The Chancellor, in his characteristic bluff way, spoke of an extra £500m for roads under the Private Finance Initiative. Even yesterday, when the BBC Today programme described the money as a "paltry extra £500m" for roads, the penny had still not dropped.

This is not extra money for roads — nor, as Sir George tried to depict it, just another way of bringing about the same level of roadbuilding. In fact, there has been a massive drop in the annual expenditure earmarked for national road schemes, from its peak of £2bn last year to £1.5bn, and we learnt in the Budget that it is to go on falling. But the more lasting effect, again revealed in Tuesday, is that under a review of



the programme 117 schemes, some 60 per cent of the total, have either been permanently abandoned or put on hold. As a result, barely a handful of schemes will be started between now and the general election.

The roads lobby was appalled at both the decision and the way in which it was disguised, calling it the "worst day for Britain's infrastructure since the Romans left". They are also sceptical of the Private Finance Initiative's ability to deliver any roads quickly.

This is the sad end of the whole vision behind the roads programme, which was first set out in a rather thin White Paper called *Roads to Prosperity* in 1989. The gist of the argument then was that Britain needed "a major expansion of the Government's programme for building and improving inter-urban roads" to "meet the forecast needs of traffic into the next century". These were heady times for the roadbuilding industry, as it seemed that the Government genuinely believed it could build itself out of the traffic congestion crisis.

The problem was that there was never any hope of doing so. Traffic was expected to rise by between 142 per cent and 834 per cent between 1988 and 2025, and there was never any chance of increasing the capacity of Britain's roads by that amount. Money was being pumped into a programme that at best stopped things getting worse quicker. Finally, the Treasury said no more.

Tuesday's events had been presaged in March, when Sir George's predecessor, Brian Mawhinney, abandoned plans to turn parts of the M25

into a 14-lane megahighway. Once it was accepted that even the busiest stretch of motorway in Britain could not be widened because of the sprout from the largely Tory local people, the policy of massive roadbuilding had nowhere to go. As we predicted at the time in March, all the motorway widening schemes have now been scrapped.

But why didn't Sir George proudly boast about his new policy, rather than slipping it through as part of the Budget? Because in representing such a massive U-turn it was simply too embarrassing, and to boot because he is offering nothing at its stead.

He made a few token comments about making "more efficient use of the roads we have",

but this would cost a lot of money too. This is something they have discovered in Japan, where the Government has spent £120m creating a massive information system for Tokyo's roads. With a network of 13,000 sensors around the city to collect information in jams, and variable message screens on every street corner to relay the information, delays have been reduced by 8 per cent in the past 10 months. Soon drivers will be able to buy their own in-car screens to pick up the information themselves, and will be offered alternative routes with the aid of computerised maps.

Meanwhile, in Britain, we are waiting for the private sector to develop the infrastructure and pay for its installation, because the Government refuses to put in any seedcorn funding. Japan is already using technology to reduce congestion, while in Britain we are years away from even

starting pilot schemes. This will be a great missed opportunity, since Japanese equipment manufacturers will be in a position to flood our market in the same way they have done with cameras and Walkmans.

The destruction of the roadbuilding programme in the Budget signifies that transport policy has been taken over by the Treasury. If Sir George wants to retain his credibility, he needs to wrest back the initiative. Earlier this year, Dr Mawhinney launched a transport debate which seemed genuine to asking the right questions about transport policy.

When Sir George publishes the results of the debate, which he has said he will do early next year, he must do more than reiterate platitudes about congestion and actually suggest radical ways of tackling the crisis. He must actually begin to make difficult choices which will antagonise a lot of people; for example by restricting car parking in towns, reducing speed limits or turning over road space to cyclists.

Now that new roads are to be built, it is only through such courageous measures that the measurable clogging up of our roads can be halted. There is no shortage of examples from abroad where all sorts of well-tried schemes, ranging from measures to increase bus usage to building light rail systems, are being implemented. Some of these are cheap; others cost a lot of money. Sir George must now let the Treasury have its way by stopping roadbuilding, but in return he has to persuade them to cough up for alternative transport policies that will stop the steady drift towards gridlock.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Symbolic cuts to lone parents

*From Professor Ruth Lister*

Sir: Hamish McRae (29 November) refers to the Chancellor's "carefully neutral statement on single parents — that they should be treated in the same way as couples with children, not specially favoured". There though, nothing "neutral" about the decision to phase out the modest additional help provided to lone-parent families both in work and out of work through one-parent benefit and the lone-parent premium, nor about the Budget of which it was a part.

The Chancellor justified this decision on the basis that "the cost and responsibilities of having children are the same for couples as they are for single people". Ten years ago, this Government published a Green Paper on social security reform in which it made the case for the lone-parent premium, which replaced a long-term rate paid after a year, on the grounds of the "greater needs" of and "extra pressures faced by lone parents". Similarly, it proposed continuing one-parent benefit "as a contribution to the additional costs faced by lone parents in bringing up children alone".

I am not aware that the difficulties faced by lone parents compared with couples raising

children have eased over the past decade. If the Government has research which underpins this significant change in policy, it should publish it. In the absence of such research, one can only conclude that what has changed is the political saliency of lone parents as the Chancellor came under pressure from the Right of his party to do something to shore up the traditional two-parent family.

It is unlikely that they really believe that such measures could affect current family trends. Instead, they amount to a piece of punitive symbolism, but a piece of symbolism which will gradually push many lone parents and their children further into poverty. Ironically, the removal of the non-means-tested one-parent benefit could serve to undermine the more welcome proposals to make it easier for lone parents to move into full-time paid employment. However, even these proposals will have only limited effect so long as the Government refuses to invest in our inadequate child care facilities.

**RUTH LISTER**  
Professor of Social Policy  
Department of Social Sciences  
Loughborough University  
Loughborough, Leicestershire  
30 November

Third World country and the international community become outraged at the business environment of that country, multinationals which have become part of the environment cannot claim innocence. That is the case with Nigeria, Shell and Ogoniland.

The solution is an international convention stipulating that multinationals are under an obligation to have comparable operational standards all over the world. As a first step, western countries should legislate that multinationals registered in their countries should conform to western operational standards in their operations in the Third World, just as the US Congress has legislated that US corporations cannot engage in corrupt practices abroad. That some will always break the law should not deter serious consideration of this approach.

Yours sincerely,  
**A. BOLAJI AKINYEMI**  
London, W2

*The writer is a former Nigerian Foreign Minister, now with the pro-democracy movement in Nigeria.*

### Call for clarity on Nigeria debate

*From Professor A. Bolaji Akinyemi*

Sir: Regarding the ongoing debate on your pages between Anita Roddick (Another View, 28 November) and your correspondents (Letters, 1 December) on Shell and Ogoniland, the central issue seems to be getting out of focus.

The real issue is: are the operational standards of Shell in the Delta area of Nigeria comparable to its operational standards in other parts of the world — especially in the developed world? From all available reports, including those of your correspondent in Nigeria, David Orr (30 November and 1 December), the standards of Shell fall below what would be accepted in Europe and the US.

It is no defence for anyone to argue that a multinational operating in the Third World has to conform to the Third World business environment. The consequence of such an argument is that when multinationals of a

country and the international community become outraged at the business environment of that country, multinationals which have become part of the environment cannot claim innocence. That is the case with Nigeria, Shell and Ogoniland.

The solution is an international convention stipulating that multinationals are under an obligation to have comparable operational standards all over the world. As a first step, western countries should legislate that multinationals registered in their countries should conform to western operational standards in their operations in the Third World, just as the US Congress has legislated that US corporations cannot engage in corrupt practices abroad. That some will always break the law should not deter serious consideration of this approach.

Yours sincerely,  
**A. BOLAJI AKINYEMI**  
London, W2

*The writer is a former Nigerian Foreign Minister, now with the pro-democracy movement in Nigeria.*

### I'm sorry, I haven't a queue

*From Mr G. Meynell*

Sir: I am having trouble with Health Service ethics. Is it wrong to use my money to jump the queue (as I grew up thinking) or wrong to clog the queue if I can afford in pay?

I suppose all *Independent* readers but me believe the latter, but I am confused. Yours faithfully,  
**G. MEYNELL**  
Derby  
27 November

### What does Hirst's udderless cow mean?

*From Ms Barbara Spring*

Sir: The contemporary art sceptics will have all their doubts and hates confirmed by this year's Turner Prize choice ("Enfant Terrible" Hirst wins the spot prize", 29 November). I, too, but particularly because of a problem with the inherent nature of the work.

Anyone who has seen a cow must have a problem with Damien Hirst's cow. The poor divided creature accompanied by a calf could never have succumbed to any child, being to all appearances perfectly udderless: the full bag of rich and beautiful milk that gives life to calf and child, makes a cow a cow, is simply not there.

Having given the work a name ("Mother" and "child divided"; "cow and calf") the viewer presumes the artist intends something meaningful about the work. What does this udderless cow mean? Is there a hidden agenda here: is it a cynical joke? Is it an existential exercise? Or, after the calf had been paid for, did funds not run to a real milking cow so an immature heifer was bought instead?

Once one has seen the problem one suspects a fraud; if there is not integrity in a work considered to be so important, whatever are the values of both

artist and critic? I am having real trouble in suspending my disbelief, and await the explanation from the pundit hopefully, in order that understanding may awaken appreciation. Yours sincerely,  
**BARBARA SPRING**  
Salstas, Cornwall  
29 November

*From Mr Paul Gaynor*

Sir: As one of the protesters at the Tate Gallery this Monday who temporarily prevented people exercising their right to view dead carcases, I must express my disappointment at the moral bankruptcy of the judges of the Turner Prize and the winning artist.

However you view the exhibit, given the chance, it increased the demand for dead animals by two, created unnecessary suffering and death and cheapened the life of a mother and child.

Apparently the judges were impressed by the artist's ability to deal with the issues of life and death. To give a more cutting edge to the subject, may I suggest that in his next piece he merely directs people to their local slaughterhouse where they can really experience the horrors awaiting the 750 million animals that we kill every year to satisfy our crav-

ing to consume animal flesh.

A true artist should be able to represent life and death — not be the cause of it. Justice may yet be done should the artist be reincarnated as a dairy cow.

Yours sincerely,  
**PAUL GAYNOR**  
Office Manager  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
London, NW1  
28 November

*From Mr W. K. Harper*

Sir: In her eulogy of Damien Hirst's work (29 November) Louisa Buck says "he produces images that lodge themselves in the psyche ... at the same time mundane and massive ... spectacle with profound meditations ... his work grabs you by the throat ... it proves that art can be funny, poetic and profound ... it is as simple or as complex as you want it to be." All this in praise of a blown-up textile pattern or perhaps an arrangement of snakes done in an idle moment? Very profound.

Incidentally, how does a calf preserved in "deadly poison" have "eternal life"? Yours sincerely,  
**W. K. HARPER**  
Tunstall,  
Staffordshire  
9 November

*From Mr J. T. Turnbull*

Sir: Commezzes to Polly Toynbee on her disappointment that her coffee morning with Hillary Clinton didn't turn out to be the feminist whinge-in-she-had-hoped-for.

She responded by pouring scorn on the First Lady for the unpardonable sin of admitting to loving her husband, and castigated her for challenging the feminist dogma that single parenthood is a good thing (even while admitting that she is right).

This was followed by the interesting argument that sisters shouldn't speak the truth in case it played into the hands of the pro-family opposition! But perhaps Mrs Toynbee could have struck a blow for social and sexual equality by refusing the invitation to a reception where the guest list was based on privilege and gender.

Yours faithfully,  
**J. T. TURNBULL**  
London, SE3

### Off the Budget

*From Mr William Rice*

Sir: I wish to express my disgust at the Budget proposal to reduce the amount of housing benefit paid to those, like myself, who are under 25 and live in private rented accommodation.

The proposal is designed to be an incentive to work. I visit the job centre twice a day, every day, and have applied for countless jobs without success. I am not unemployed by choice. To anyone under 25 the message is clear, ensure you've got a job, because if you don't lose it, the state will clopp you.

Yours faithfully,  
**WILLIAM RICE**

Port Glasgow



### First Lady 'hatchet job'

*From Baroness Blackstone and Ms Elizabeth Symons*

Sir: We wonder whether Polly Toynbee ("What have they done to Hillary?", 30 November) was at the same meeting we attended at the American Embassy on Wednesday.

Her report was a serious misrepresentation of an interesting and stimulating discussion. What Ms Toynbee describes as "buzz words" are real issues to many women, as those on zero-hours contracts and pitiful pay for part-timers know all too well. A wide variety of views was expressed, put with both determination and humour. It was a conversation in which Mrs Clinton freely participated, demonstrating a reflective intelligence and considerable knowledge of the point of rodentine climax.

This week we have had the latest instalment in a 16-year hedge battle between pensioners Charles Stanton and Michael Jones. Back in 1971, when Edward Heath was Prime Minister and T. Rex were in the charts, Mr Stanton planted a row of fast-growing conifers at the bottom of his garden. Mr Jones watched as, over the years, the plants grew to 25ft, blotting out the sun's rays and casting his own garden into Stygian gloom.

In 1979, friendly discussion having failed, Mr J took action and solicitor's letters were exchanged. Meanwhile the cypresses shot above the 30ft mark. Eventually, Mr S grudgingly conceded to the trees being reduced to 22ft, thus safeguarding his privacy against all but the lankiest of giraffes.

But six years ago, the dispute took a new twist. Mr J decided that 15ft was a better height, took the saw into his own hands, and lopped off a further 60 inches. And then another 48 inches.

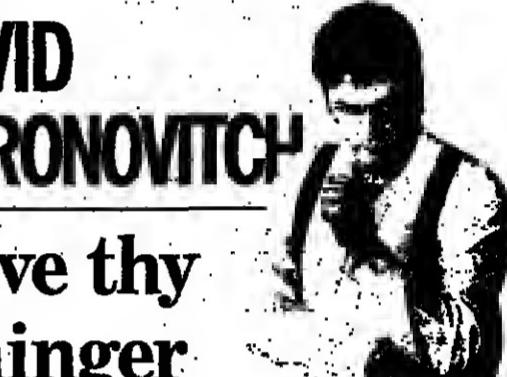
Maggie went, the Gulf war was fought, Yugoslavia imploded. Over in Bournville, injunctions were being granted and courts were giving rulings. Peace broke out in Ulster and, finally, on Thursday, Mr Stanton lost his last case. He now faces a bill for £50,000 in costs.

If Mr J's showmanship has been rewarded, he should be compelled to host their own late-night chat show on local talk radio, where they can give vent to their feelings about the world — about home-testing cabies, illicit conifer cutters, horny hamsters and all the other thousand natural shocks that English flesh is heir to.

If this fails, they should enter the courts and win out. Out of the courts, it might also entertain the rest of us at the same time.

### DAVID AARONOVITCH

### Love thy whinger



### QUOTE UNQUOTE

Words can be sexy and eyes can be sexy. I don't think you need to see naked bodies writhing around all the time — Meg Ryan, one of a growing number of film actresses who won't strip for the camera

I cannot remember when I last saw a film, but I am told it is important nowadays to have a bit of nudity to make it sell to the public — Viscount Devenport, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire

The cut is nonsensical, totally irrational and deeply boring — Stephen Daldry, artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, London, on the £5m cut in the Arts Council budget

The trouble with being off the drunk is that you remember clearly the next morning what you did the night before, and when you're off the drink there's nothing worth remembering from the night before — Richard Harris, actor and reformed hell-raiser

I could play Camilla Parker-Bowles, I could ugly up for that — Joan Collins, when asked if she would star in a royal soap opera

It was as if Brady and Hindley had got married and kept killing for 20 years — Howard Sounes, author of the first book on the West trial

# Keeping the faith – and no messing

**Dr George Carey is not the type to stand by while his church sanctions living in sin, says Andrew Brown**

It is a curious commentary on the state of the Church of England that the Archbishop of Canterbury should make front-page news by announcing that marriage is preferable to cohabitation. Yet Dr George Carey has just reaped his most sustained harvest of favourable publicity since he was chosen by Mrs Thatcher, by speaking up this week in defence of the conventional family at the General Synod.

It was not the first time Dr Carey has defended marriage: at the time of the David Mellor scandal he urged adulterous cabinet ministers to resign, on the grounds that anyone who systematically deserves his wife is not to be trusted in other areas of life. But this time his words had added dramatic effect, because he was rebuking his own church for producing a report advocating the abandonment of the use of the phrase "living in sin".

The problem the report was trying to tackle was that some evangelical priests have been refusing to marry couples who live together if they do not perform a public act of repentance, and even refusing to baptise their babies. But in criticising that puritanism, the report

inable" that he should ever be unfaithful to his wife Eileen. This sort of loud self-confidence comes naturally to him. It is one of the qualities that makes him attractive to the evangelicals who lobbied hard for him as successor to Robert Runcie in 1990. Carey's appointment came as a big surprise: he had only been a diocesan bishop for two and a half years, and was a generation younger than most of the men tipped for the succession.

His self-confidence immediately dropped him into a succession of diplomatic disasters: he said some opponents of women priests were guilty of "a very grave heresy"; his first visit to the Sudan led to the expulsion of the British ambassador there; on a trip to China he condemned bible-smuggling, which is a traditional Christian response to totalitarianism.

But nothing dents his brash approach for long. Last week he announced that he was to visit Sarajevo, to express his solidarity with the people there. Never mind the fact that there aren't any Anglicans in Sarajevo, Dr Carey sees himself as a world spiritual leader, as he told the author Mary Loudon, with



Carey's vision: vicar to the nation and world spiritual leader

Edward Sykes

ing and shrunken church. But it is all of a piece with the church through which he rose.

He was born in London's East End in 1935, the second of five children; his family, he says, were what the Bible would call God-fearers. "They took their membership of the Church of England quite seriously, even if they didn't actually go," he told the author Mary Loudon, with

book, the congregation was full of earnest high-mindedness, and the vicar was known by a silly nickname (Pit-Pat). He now distils the label of evangelical, but his entire career in the Church of England has been within evangelical parishes or theological colleges; and his supporters are almost without exception evangelicals themselves.

The term "evangelical" has little doctrinal meaning left. It is more a matter of style. When an archbishop says, as this one did yesterday, that life as an Anglican ought to be "tremendously exciting, tremendously important, and tremendously full of surprises", you might expect a wave of embarrassment to run around the old-fashioned Church of England like a Mexican cinge. But gentlemanly self-deprecation is old-fashioned now. The strength of evangelicals is now their confidence with power and modernity: their churches have the newest computer systems. They don't expect to be in decline, even when they are: they believe that the right combination of technique and prayer will put the church back on the road to growth.

What they don't believe in is soft-headed accommodation to modern secular trends, however close to home those may be. Two of Dr Carey's own four children have been through divorces and one is remarried. None has cohabited though. And the whole family has stayed church: one son is a curate; one works on the Church of England Newspaper, and one is a steward at the Archbishop's palace in Canterbury.

Dr Carey's confidence in the face of modern society's muddled values speaks to his battered church. Its membership is still declining; but an optimist can point to the 200 churches planted in the past six years. Nearly 300 priests have left over the ordination of women; but an optimist points out that this number is far fewer than threatened to leave.

For decades the Church of England has been attacked for equivocation, over-subtlety, and unnecessary intellectual refinement. Carey is bereft of these faults, and their concomitant virtues. He knows what he wants for the church and for the nation: "We have to get back to the kind of basic standards which come from a strong Christian tradition and strong churches which are making their contribution to the life of our nation." Here is the certain trumpet. Will anyone be listening?

**It was all a matter of nuance, but he saw the opportunity for firm leadership and grabbed it with both hands**

appeared to be saying that the Church of England should fully accept cohabitation.

It was all a matter of nuance, but Dr Carey saw the opportunity for firm leadership and grabbed it with both hands: the public beating he administered to the report was quite unprecedented, and left the Bishop responsible worse with pain and anger in his response.

Dr Carey himself has been married since the age of 24; he once told an interviewer that it was "unimaginable" that he should ever be unfaithful to his wife Eileen. This sort of loud self-confidence comes naturally to him. It is one of the qualities that makes him attractive to the evangelicals who lobbied hard for him as successor to Robert Runcie in 1990. Carey's appointment came as a big surprise: he had only been a diocesan bishop for two and a half years, and was a generation younger than most of the men tipped for the succession.

His self-confidence immediately dropped him into a succession of diplomatic disasters: he said some opponents of women priests were guilty of "a very grave heresy"; his first visit to the Sudan led to the expulsion of the British ambassador there; on a trip to China he condemned bible-smuggling, which is a traditional Christian response to totalitarianism.

But nothing dents his brash approach for long. Last week he announced that he was to visit Sarajevo, to express his solidarity with the people there. Never mind the fact that there aren't any Anglicans in Sarajevo, Dr Carey sees himself as a world spiritual leader, as he told the author Mary Loudon, with

ing and shrunken church. But it is all of a piece with the church through which he rose.

He was born in London's East End in 1935, the second of five children; his family, he says, were what the Bible would call God-fearers. "They took their membership of the Church of England quite seriously, even if they didn't actually go," he told the author Mary Loudon, with

book, the congregation was full of earnest high-mindedness, and the vicar was known by a silly nickname (Pit-Pat). He now distils the label of evangelical, but his entire career in the Church of England has been within evangelical parishes or theological colleges; and his supporters are almost without exception evangelicals themselves.

The term "evangelical" has little

# A formula for reviving Irish spirits

**Bill Clinton's visit was a great excuse for a great party. But it meant more, says David McKittrick**

Belfast, as somebody once remarked, is not at all a typical Irish city: it has more in common with the Scottish or northern English cities that sprang up with the industrial revolution, and shares many of their characteristics.

In one of its aspects it is tough, sour, grumpy, with a take-it-or-leave-it attitude, a city of no airs and graces – personified, in fact, by Van Morrison, who this week served as the warm-up act for Bill Clinton at its city hall.

That face has been to the fore ever since the paramilitary ceasefires of 1994, which were greeted with a mixture of relief and caution. It took the presidential visit to liberate another of the city's aspects, at last allowing it to show its warm, welcoming, even joyous face.

In doing so, the visit not only provided the occasion for a release of goodwill but also consolidated and cemented the peace process. It was more than just a great party: it may turn out to be a truly historic turning point, for in a single day almost all of the lingering doubts about the peace were swept away.

Many trials and obstacles will have to be surmounted in the months and years ahead, but this week's events have immeasurably strengthened the process. The preceding weeks had produced a series of ever-gloomier assessments from republicans, and latterly from security sources. Both elements warned that the process was becoming unstable as the arms decommissioning impasse dragged on. Tuesday night's Anglo-Irish summit, since over-shadowed by the Clinton visit, did much to relieve the pressures. Even in the absence of agreement between Dublin and London, its carefully balanced formula set up an international body on decommissioning and moved towards talks. It was, in effect, an offer that politically, Sinn Fein and the IRA could not refuse and, for the moment at least, it dispelled most of the dangerous tensions.



Caption in Northern Ireland: the signs are that US involvement will reassure all parties

Photograph: F. Sproule

While the ingenious intricacies of the summit communiqué have supplied a technical framework for the next few months, the Clinton visit delivered an extraordinary injection of momentum, enthusiasm, fresh heart and new spirit. His message that the violence was over for good was radiated back to him from the thousands who stood in the cold to hear him and cheer him.

On 31 August, on the first anniversary of the IRA cessation of violence, the streets in front of the city hall were empty: no one felt able to celebrate. On Thursday night, with Clinton as the catalyst, tens of thousands clapped, cheered, waved their US flags and finally allowed their

feelings to come out into the open.

The fact that the crowd was made up of both Catholics and Protestants is a tribute to Clinton's political skills. Throughout 1994, his name was mud with Unionists as, in the face of stiff British opposition, he granted Gerry Adams visas to visit the States and allowed him to fund-raise there (a boon that has netted Sinn Fein hundreds of thousands of dollars and has probably made it Ireland's richest political party).

Clinton is the first US administration to make a serious study of the politics of Northern Ireland, and certainly the first to intervene in them. No American president had ever visited Northern Ireland before this week. JFK

decided in 1963 not to venture north of the border.

This was largely because American administrations were perceived as pro-Irish nationalists. Indeed, many saw Clinton in this light in 1994. Since then, however, his position has evolved considerably: he has made particular efforts to mend fences with London while, as he demonstrated in Dublin yesterday, remaining on good terms with the Irish government.

His warmest praise was reserved for SDLP leader John Hume, who clearly has a major input into American decision-making. But Clinton has also made a special effort to build bridges to Unionists, offering special access to Unionist leader David Trimble and

# Glamour for Everygirl

**Tamsin Blanchard examines the lasting magic of the Clothes Show**

**I**t is a Girl's World come to life, a non-stop whirlwind of glamorous clothes, makeovers by hair and make-up teams, catwalk shows, bright lights, pulsating music, camera flash, leggy models and, to top it all, the Cheshire Cat grin of fashion king Jeff Banks. The Clothes Show Live event at Birmingham's NEC started yesterday and by the end of the weekend will have attracted almost 250,000 schoolgirls, their older sisters, their boyfriends and mothers. Dreams come true at Clothes Show Live. There is always the possibility of being scooped from the crowd and on to the world's largest catwalk, alongside superstar models like Jodie Kidd and Marcus Schenkenberg. It's designed to leave all participants on a high.

But behind the gloss, lipstick and the shimmering eyeshadow, The Clothes Show Live is big business. For many designers, it is as important as the trade shows held at the same venue twice a year. This weekend the designers get to meet their market and, more importantly, where their market gets to meet them. Last year £2.250 was spent every minute and by the end of the six-day period, visitors had partied with £8m.

For many designers, the annual event comes at a perfect time. They have just finished selling their collections for next summer and the event boosts cash flow in the run up to Christmas. In a business that is all about hype and marketing, it is the greatest promotional event of all with a captive market, over half of whom are young women aged 16-25.

The BBC's Clothes Show programme (there is also a highly successful spin-off magazine) is 10 years old next year. It is something of a mystery to the TV executives who can't quite comprehend how the mix of high street bargains, designer frocks, and wedding dresses picks up some eight million viewers – 39 per cent of the audience share on Sunday afternoon.

When Jeff Banks, then running his successful Warehouse

chain, and television producer Roger Cawdles made the first pilot of the Clothes Show in 1983, it took them three years before it was actually accepted. "No one wanted it," says Banks. "But I was obsessed about getting fashion on television." His status as an industry insider and his slightly camp brand of enthusiasm are vital to the show's formula.

The first show went out in 1986 and after only three programmes, its success was obvious. "The appeal of the programme is not race, it's not the presenters, it's the inevitable thirst that the public has for the subject," Banks says. It was the first programme to treat fashion in any depth and is still, if not the only, one of a sparse handful of nationally-taught programmes in the world.

Before The Clothes Show, ordinary people felt intimidated by fashion. Jeff Banks and the other presenters have introduced the public to designers whose clothes most people can never hope to afford. The clothes are made accessible, modelled by real people and catwalk trends are translated for people whose lives do not revolve around them. The show aims to include everyone, from brides to the Bride of the Year competition allows the winner to have a designer wedding (to the bride). (Jeff Banks redesigned their uniforms on screen). This is fashion at its most basic, grassroots level.

By focusing on the personalities in the industry as much as the clothes, it has become a kind of Top of the Pops, a formula that appeals to everyone except for the snobbish fashion elite who tend to sneer. Ten years ago, the woman in the street would not have known who John Galliano was. Now, the designer is recognised in the street by autograph hunters. And while the postbags at the Clothes Show's Birmingham office keep on piling up, Jeff Banks' vision has paid off. On the fashion catwalk, at the NEC, the music explodes, the models sashay and the crowds roar.

# Good-bye battery



**S**eiko Kinetic. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz – naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

**SEIKO  
KINETIC**

# obituaries / gazette

## Simon Wolff

Last month the Chancellor of the Exchequer increased duties on super unleaded petrol. He did it because of Simon Wolff. In June 1994, Wolff convinced the House of Commons Transport Committee that unleaded petrol, especially super unleaded, replaced lead with yet more dangerous levels of cancer-causing aromatics.

This shooting down of a supposed "green fuel" repeated his feat when he was the first UK scientist to show, loud and clear and by evidence-based argument, that diesel fuel by its residue of fine particles, causes more problems than it solves. As he sardonically said to MPs: "the switch to diesel which is now taking place may well be a large-scale experiment in lung cancer".

Simon Wolff combined, as few do, campaigning zeal and campaigning success with true academic integrity. Of course the oil lobby were unhappy with his torpedoing of two of their carefully advertised "green fuels". But this did not make him yet another Identikit Green bore; rather he was distinct from most Greens in not falling for technical fixes such as unleaded fuels and catalysts who what was needed was to stop building new roads.

His work at the Medical School of University College London, where he worked first as Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer in Toxicology, from 1986, centred round the degenerative effect of free radicals and oxidants generally in the context of diabetes and ageing. His work was internationally recognised: he had over a hundred papers, and publications in *Nature* magazine and elsewhere, and contributed to many international



Wolff: "Why build more roads?"

Archway spirit: intellect and fighting on the barricades. You need something to say – but you also need courage to say it whether or not officialdom deems it the right time and place. In 1990, a battered Cecil Parkinson, then Minister for Transport, conceded defeat: for the first time in a quarter of a century Archway was safe and it was Wolff who helped make it so.

Scientists have dogmas as much as politicians or priests, but Wolff never minded a clear-eyed look. He distrusted Pavlovian reactions to radioactivity and when it was reported that areas with more radon (a radioactive gas) have higher cancer levels (with the inference that the level of cancer was connected to the level of radon), he showed that these areas were usually economically better off. More car-driving with increased ingestion of benzene, not radon, he argued, would have increased cancer levels. Again, he suspected that laying all ills at the door of tobacco was a move to exculpate worse pollutants, notably transport fumes, and would say, "I'll stop smoking if you stop driving."

George Stern

**Simon Paul Wolff, toxicologist and campaigner: born Harborough Magna, Warwickshire 3 March 1957; post-doctoral research fellow, Brunel University, London 1984-86; Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Columbia University, New York 1984-86; Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer in Toxicology, University College Medical School, London, 1986-95; married 1988 Linda Hallan (one son, one daughter); died London 25 November 1995.**

## Frank d'Abreu

Frank d'Abreu gave unstinted service for 23 years to Westminster Hospital and Medical School.

d'Abreu was a skilful, delicate, gentle and speedy surgeon with whom anaesthetists liked to work – a good recommendation. He was not an "academic" but full of sound clinical judgement. Above all he had the surgical equivalent of "green fingers", so that, patients did well even when the complexities of the surgery were great. In no way a prima donna in the operating theatre, he had an idiosyncratic way of challenging his assistants to prevent any mishap – a method of teaching shaped by his puckish humour. D'Abreu's other great interest was the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, of which he was an Honorary Surgeon from 1950. He was a lifelong Roman Catholic and to this small hospital in St John's Wood, north London, run by the Sisters of Mercy, he gave generously of his time and expertise. At the time of his appointment it was a small independent charitable hospital with its own course-training school, a casualty department and a 24-hour emergency admissions service – which put potentially huge demands on the consultant surgeons. The hospital took in patients of every religion and none – but it had in those days a special commitment to the clergy of the Archdiocese of Westminster. D'Abreu gave freely of his time and expertise in their care and treatment for many years.

The son of a Birmingham doctor, d'Abreu was born in 1904 and educated at Stonyhurst College, in Lancashire. When he left in 1922 he was Head of the Line (headboy), captain of both cricket and rugby and a natural for any sport he tackled. His interest in the field led to his becoming a member of the Board of Management of the Institute of Sports Medicine.

After graduation from Birmingham University he proceeded to Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1932. From 1934 to the outbreak of the Second World War he held registrar posts at St Bartholomew's and Westminster hospitals, in London. Already a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps (Supplementary Reserve), he was soon called up and served throughout, finishing as Lieutenant-Colonel in South-East Asia Command.

In 1945 he married Ann Bowers-Lyon (a cousin of the Queen Mother), and a year later was appointed a consultant surgeon to Westminster Hospital. To this hospital and its medical school he gave service for the next 23 years. He was also an examiner in surgery at the Universities of Cambridge and London and a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons. Later he was to become medical adviser and examiner to the Jockey Club.

He was always supportive of the students, especially in their

sporting activities. Rugby, and especially the Inter-Hospital Championship, was his obsession and one which undoubtedly helped the Westminster team to rise to great heights in the late Fifties. Never was a match played but he could be seen up and down the touchline encouraging, cajoling and even swearing at his team. At other times, when challenged, he



D'Abreu: surgical 'green fingers'

would perform the unusual feat of standing on his head whilst drinking a glass of beer – to the delight of his students.

Philip King

**Francis Arthur d'Abreu, surgeon: born 1 October 1904; Consultant Surgeon, Westminster Hospital 1946-69 (Emeritus); Honorary Surgeon, Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, St John's Wood 1950-69 (Emeritus); married 1945 Ann Bowers-Lyon (one son, two daughters); died 16 November 1995.**

Kirk, Emeritus Professor of Greek, Cambridge University, 74; Mr Franz Klemmer, skier, 42; Mr Ralph McTell, folk singer, 51; Miss Enya Moiseiwitsch, theoretical designer, 81; The Rev Professor Charles Moule, theologian, 87; Mr Paul Nicholas, actor and singer, 50; Mr Victor Pasmore, artist, 87; Mr Robert Phillips, deputy Director-General, BBC, and chairman Worldwide, 50; Mr Mel Smith, actor and comedian, 43; Professor Peter Tynne, Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool John Moores University, 56; Mr Andy Williams, singer, 65.

Deaths

**TODAY: Births: Sir Maurice Bathurst, QC, international judge, 82; Sir Frederick Bennett, former MP, 77; Mr Timothy Bewes MP, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 53; The Hon Nigel Calder, science writer, 64; Professor Sir Alan Cook, former Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 73; Sir Frank Cooper, chairman, High Integrity Systems Ltd, 73; Sir David Davies, former chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 86; Mr Mike Evans, football manager, 52; Mr Ian Fulsay, former Director, Royal Scottish Museum, 89; Mr David Green, director of Voluntary Services Overseas, 47; Mr Michael Green, chairman, Carlton Communications, 48; General Alexander Haig, former US Secretary of State, 71; Marshal of the RAF Sir Peter Harding, former Chief of the Defence Staff, 72; Mrs Julie Harris, actress, 70; Miss Patricia Hewitt, Head of Research, Admiralty Consultants, 47; Sir George Labouchere, former Ambassador to Spain, 90; Dr Brian Lasker, chief executive and deputy chairman, British Library, 50; Mr Roy Maxie, vice-chairman, ABTA, 76; Mrs Dame Winifred Prentice, former president, Royal College of Nursing, 82; Miss Monica Seales, tennis player, 22; Mr Alex Smith, MEP, 52.**

**TOMORROW: Mr Trevor Bailey, former England cricketer, 72; Mr Ralph Bennett, former chairman, London Transport, 72; Professor Ian Butterworth, former Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, 65; Mr Charles Craig, operatic tenor, 56; Mr Mike Gibson, former Irish rugby international, 53; M. Jean-Luc Godard, film director, 65; Sir William Harpham, former ambassador, 89; Mr Maxwell Hutchinson, architect and founder member, the Hutchinson Studio, 47; Sir Brian Jenkins, former Lord Mayor of London, 60; Professor Geoffrey**

Keese, third Duke of Parma, military commander, 1592; Robert Louis Stevenson, novelist, 1894; Miss Baker-Evans, author, 81; Mr Michael Faraday, theorist, designer, 51; The Rev Professor Charles Moule, theologian, 87; Mr Paul Nicholas, actor and singer, 50; Mr Victor Pasmore, artist, 87; Mr Robert Phillips, deputy Director-General, BBC, and chairman Worldwide, 50; Mr Mel Smith, actor and comedian, 43; Professor Peter Tynne, Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool John Moores University, 56; Mr Andy Williams, singer, 65.

**Anniversaries**

**TODAY: Births: Sir Francis Carruthers Gould, caricaturist and politician, 1844; Georges-Pierre Seurat, painter, 1859; Maria Anna Cecilia Sofia Callas (Kalogeropoulos), operatic soprano, 1923; Deaths: Margaret of Angoulême, Queen of Henry II of Navarre, 1519; Domènec Alfonso Franch, Marquise de Sade, French philosopher, 1814; James Brown, abolitionist, 1852; Philip Arthur Larkins, poet, 1908. On this day: the new St Paul's Cathedral was opened, 1687; Napoleon was crowned Emperor in Paris by Pope Pius VII, 1804; Birkbeck College, London, was founded, 1823; King Camp Gillette patented the first safety razor, 1901; the first atomic pile started operating, in Chicago, 1942. Today is the Feast Day of St Barbara of Nicomedia, St Chromatius of Aquila, St Nomus and St Silvanus of Constantinople.**

**Dinners**

**Honourable Artillery Company**

Col Sir Colin Cole, President, Hon

ourable Artillery Company Mess

Club, was in the chair at dinner held

yesterday evening at Armoury

House, London EC1. Capt J.H.

James, Lt-Gen Sir William Rous and

Professor Sir Michael Howard were

the speakers.

Stay in the city by all means, but remember the social gospel is not enough. We know the text: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." And of course works of charity are necessary to raise the practice of religious faith above the level of sentimentality and pietistic bigotry. But the essence of religion is not social work with prayers. It must offer transforming spiritual experience or it is nothing, a foundation built on sand.

I should give an example of what I am getting at.

When I was a boy of 17 and growing up in downtown Leeds between Armley jail and the gasworks, I went one morning to the parish church of St Bartholomew. As I stepped inside, the service had already begun. Here comes the golden cross, Mr Crofton in his alb and behind him the choir in red and white. Servers, acolytes, the vicar and two curates in their festival vestments.

They were singing "Blessed City, Heavenly Salem" to the awesome tune "Westminster". I felt I had died, for heaven must be like this. The mighty Schulze organ, crowned with the carved angel of the apocalypse, growled and roared. Then it calmed down and sounded like a single clarinet in paradise over the words:

From the celestial realms descending  
Bridal glory round thee shed,  
Met for whom love espoused thee;  
to thy Lord thou shah be led.

It could not be true, could it? There was a roar of bass notes and a terrifying improvisation by the organist in the last verse.

Laud and honour to the Father  
Laud and honour to the Son...  
Fathers and sons coupled together. It could

not be true, could it? The organist began: "O God forasmuch as we are not able to please thee...". Never mind the school lessons, this is what the English language is for.

A short sermon and soon it was the Communion. Going forth to the high altar for the first time made sense of the Psalms, made me feel as if I was inhabiting the Psalmist's world: "I will ascend unto the throne of God in the heavens; I will be like the angels; I will sit upon the mount of the congregation in the assembly of God in the land of the living".

The aromatic blend of ritual and red wine. Eight candles flickering. The Schulze again, but restrained: "Let all mortal flesh keep silence...". Another prayer in the magical, God-haunted language and then Haydn: "Praise the Lord, ye heavens above him." And in the silence a holy thump as the congregation knelt. The silence shattered by the summons to action that begins Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor. And we all went home.

Coleridge said, "I am weary of evidences, hot make me feel religion." That is how it was in Armley all those years ago. And not just in Armley, but all over the scruffy side of Leeds and all the great Victorian industrial cities. Religion as a living foretaste of heaven.

The churches which provided this weekly glimpse of the beatific vision were all on the wrong side of town. In Leeds St Bartholomew's, Armley; St Stephen's in Holbeck; St Mary's, Hunslet – poor parishes all of them: slum parishes, even.

There was no patronising Noddy language but the full juice of the fruit: the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. I never heard anyone complain that this was the terminology of elitists. We were all elitists for we knew we had not just the best but something incomparable.

Did we understand it? In religion it is never a case of theoretical understanding but of gradually, by habit and use, entering a world. At any rate we knew there is so much as profound truth in trashy writing.

We were much poorer than most of today's inhabitants of the inner city but we did not think of ourselves as candidates for charity. On the contrary, it was the poor who gave for all they were worth to the church – for the excellent reason that the church and what went on there was the centre and source of all true value.

We had pride. We had a centre that was not just a social centre. No one ever asked what it was all for. Unlike today's Church, utilitarianism didn't enter into it. It was not ritual as a sign of something political, a means, but an end in itself. We were every Sunday morning led into the Real Presence. There wasn't much social work, but there was transcendence. We looked up through all that music, light and poetry, and what we looked up to drew us to Himself.

## Dinesh Singh

Dinesh Singh served as Indian foreign minister in the Sixties and again in the Nineties. In between, he headed several other ministries under five prime ministers before becoming minister without portfolio earlier this year.

ideologically flexible and fiercely ambitious, the dapper Singh, forever with an eye to the political main chance, switched parties in the Seventies when he was slighted by the Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, for perpetuating rather fooolhardy insulations.

Gandhi laid great stress on foreign policy and as her external affairs minister, "Kitchen cabinet" member and political troubleshooter, Singh worked closely with her through the Sixties. But, somewhat indeately, Singh encouraged hints that his relationship with the widowed Mrs Gandhi was more than just political, a myth which briefly enhanced his status.

But when the rumours finally reached the prime minister's ears in 1971, Singh was dumped overnight and though he continued as an MP, Gandhi never accepted his peace offerings until her Congress (I) party was dislodged by the Janata Dal coalition in the 1977 general elections.

Fearing slighted, Singh joined the Janata Dal which lasted a little over two years. He then managed to ingratiate himself with Gandhi, rejoined the Congress (I) and once again became an MP. But despite hectic lobbying and embarrassing displays of abject loyalty, which Gandhi encouraged, he never won back her trust or a berth in her cabinet.

Nor did Rajiv Gandhi, India's son and successor, forget Singh's indiscretion and political treachery. But Gandhi has changed his cabinet every few months, and Singh's seniority and experience led to his being made the commerce minister for a short while.

But the present prime minister, Narasimha Rao, a greater man in the occult, felt that Singh was lucky for him and made him foreign minister in January 1993. And, though he suffered a stroke soon after, and could rarely attend office, Singh was retained in that post till early this year when he became minister without portfolio.

Dinesh Singh was born in 1925, the son of Raja Avadhesh Singh, the tahukdar, or landed nobleman, of Kalakankar, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Though most rajas or rulers, and tahukdars of Uttar Pradesh supported the British, Singh's family were staunchly nationalistic and committed to Mahatma Gandhi's freedom struggle.

Nan Macdonald left Northern Children's Hour at the end of 1949. For a period after this she was attached to Children's Television at Lime Grove, in London. Her first contribution to Children's Hour was a feature in 1953 for the Coronation, "A Thousand Years of Pageantry".

As Northern Children's Hour's producer, Nan Macdonald always put her own stamp on the programmes. They had to inform and to educate – and in an entertaining way. As Charles Groves said, arriving in 1944 as the new conductor of the BBC Northern Orchestra, "One of the first people to come and see me was Nan Macdonald. Each BBC region had its own Children's Hour – and the one in Manchester was Nan's. She wanted exciting music from a wide repertoire. I responded with alacrity." So began the Children's Hour Concerts, broadcast to the nation from the Milton Hall, Manchester.

From the very day that regional broadcasting had resumed in July 1945, Northern Children's Hour was heralded by its own signature tune, "On Ilkley Moor", recorded by Charles Groves and the BBC Northern Orchestra. Now, in a different age and broadcasting to a far wider audience, Nan Macdonald's seven-day output included film reviews by John Stratton, a monthly Children's News-sheet, there was John Coates to talk about Common-

Milan, 1944; Dr Christopher

MacDonald left Northern Children's Hour at the end of 1949. For a period after this she was attached to Children's Television at Lime Grove, in London. Her first contribution to Children's Hour was a feature in 1953 for the Coronation, "A Thousand Years of Pageantry".

Then until the demise of the programme in 1964, Nan Macdonald's name was frequently to be seen in the *Radio Times* as the adapter of a whole range of classic drama. She retired in 1972 and reverted to the privacy of Margaret Anna Macdonald.

Trevor Potter

Margaret Annie "Nan" Macdonald, radio producer and presenter; born London 24 May 1908; organiser Northern Children's Hour 1937-49; died 10 November 1995.

## Winifred Ferrier

Elizabeth Forbes [obituaries, 10 November] rightly stressed the great support that Winifred Ferrier gave to her famous sister Kathleen, writes Helen Anderson.

But she was distinguished in her own right. When she relinquished the responsibilities of full-time head teacher to give more time to Kathleen and her father she was taken on as a dress designer for

Marks & Spencer. She also had a book on teaching arithmetic in the primary school published by Arnolds.

Mention should be made too of the large part played by Winifred in the successful launching in 1933 of the Kathleen Ferrier Society, of which she was President, and to which she gave all Kathleen's memorabilia.

## Obituary

### A foretaste of heaven found in Armley

faith & reason

This week the General Synod debated the report *Faith in the City*, published 10 years ago.

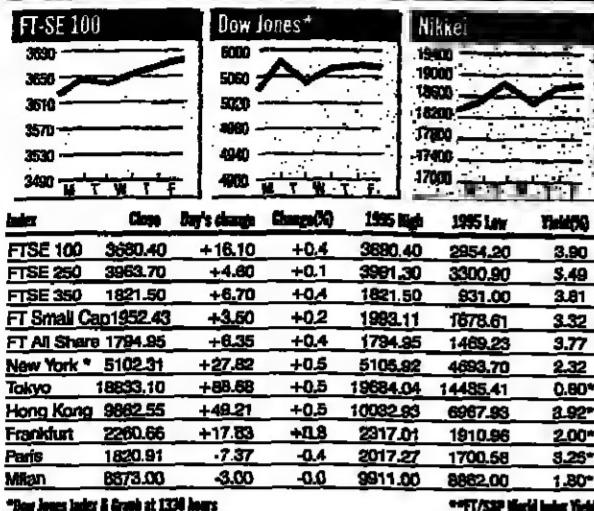
Wherever religion is practised, Peter Muller argues, its essence is not social work and prayers.

I should give an example of what I



## MARKET SUMMARY

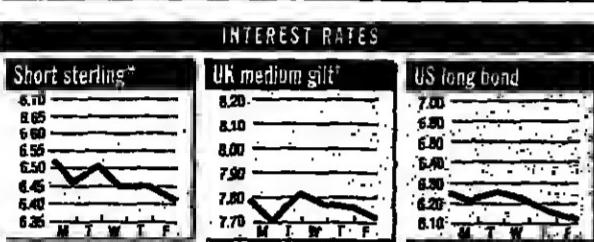
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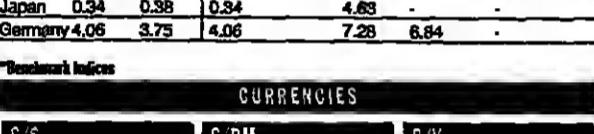
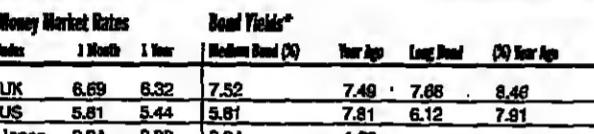
\*See Jones Index & Graph at 1224 hours \*\*FT/SMP World Index Yields

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

FTSE 250 companies (excluding investment trusts)					
Index	Price	Chg/cp	% Chg	Chg/dp	1995 High
Celent Group	602	53	8.7	Web Group	201
British Telecom	1675	127	8.2	Hanson	135
Guardian Royal	222	22	6.1	Croda Int'l	316
Pearson	882	33	5.1	Dalts	374
Perpetual	1725	82	5.0	Eurotunnel Pic/2	92



\*See Interest Rates & Gilt Yields at 1224 hours



\*See New York exchange rates and Gilt Yield at 1224 hours



\*See New York exchange rates and Gilt Yield at 1224 hours

## IN BRIEF

## Deregulation body for power industry

The electricity industry has been told to establish a new executive body to implement deregulation in 1998 and to set out a detailed plan by the end of January. The recommendations were in a report from PA Consulting commissioned by the electricity regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild. He said the main responsibility for the changes, which will introduce competition into domestic electricity supply, rested with the electricity companies and generators. There has been mounting criticism of the industry's lack of preparation.

## Completion expected for Bancorp sale

NatWest Group is expected to complete the sale next week of its New Jersey-based US retail banking arm, Bancorp, for a sum believed to be over £2bn. Speculation as to the buyer has centred on Fleet Financial, the acquisitive New England bank, as well as the Bank of New York, First Fidelity and Nationsbank, HSBC, the London-based international bank which owns Midland, took an early interest but is believed to have pulled out of the running. NatWest Group has decided to abandon its position as a small retail player in the US, switching the resources into building up its investment banking activities in New York.

## British Gas reduces rises for shippers

British Gas has cut back and delayed planned increases in the charges for gas shippers who use its pipelines, to nearly half the level announced in September. Overall charges will increase by 1.9 per cent compared with almost 4 per cent, which was first proposed. The move follows pressure from shippers, which account for 40 per cent of the market.

## Bank of Western Australia float

Bank of Western Australia (BankWest), which was bought by the Bank of Scotland for £350m in September, said offers for the float of 49 per cent of the Perth-based bank are expected to open on 8 January. Standard & Poor's, the rating agency, lowered its long and short-term ratings of Bank of Scotland debt by one notch due to the impact of the purchase on the bank's capital. Despite this, Bank of Scotland's shares rose 15p to 285p.

## Restructuring at BA

The board of British Airways yesterday agreed a restructuring of middle and senior management. A number of staff are likely to go or be redeployed because the new chief executive, Robert Ayling, wants to streamline the reporting structure.

## Welsh Water in Swalec discussions

Welsh Water was in intensive discussions yesterday with its advisers over whether to launch a hostile £850m bid for Swalec, the South Wales electricity company, which the City believes could come as early as Monday. On Thursday, Swalec rejected an informal 916p-a-share offer to secure board agreement, and Welsh Water said a hostile bid was one of its options.

## Kvaerner lifts Amec stake

Kvaerner has lifted its stake in the UK contractor Amec by another 1.1 per cent, taking its holding to 18.1 per cent. The Norwegian company is on Monday expected to release the terms of offer for the preference shares, which analysts now believe will involve some sort of loan note.

## Coal Investments calls for 'rescue funds'

## DAVID HELLIER

The future of Malcolm Edwards, the former British Coal commercial director, was in doubt yesterday as his coal-mining group said it planned to raise further capital in what is being seen as a "rescue rights" issue. If the issue of new equity goes ahead – and market sources suggest that it will need to be priced at a heavy discount – it will be the fourth time the company has been to the market for new funds in the two

years since taking over parts of British Coal.

Sources close to the company said its bankers and shareholders wanted Mr Edwards, who is currently executive chairman, to remain with the group. "He is very valuable to the business," one source said. But they added that they would try to strengthen senior management to bring in somebody to perform the chief executive's role.

Others in the City were less sure about Mr Edwards' ability

to stay on. "He may be a good salesman but the City is definitely questioning Mr Edwards' ability to run a public company after this," one City coal analyst said yesterday.

In October Mr Edwards told an annual meeting of the company's shareholders that the group would be profitable by "well before the end of the financial year".

The group, which bought a number of pits from British Coal including Heath, Silverdale and Markham, has

been beset by production problems that have ratcheted up costs whilst adversely affecting revenues.

Yesterday's announcement came after a sharp fall in the share price of Coal Investments. The price of the shares fell 26p to 36p at their low point as investors worried about the company's ability to continue paying its suppliers. The shares closed at 35p, down 21p.

The company said it has agreed terms with its bankers for the removal of certain

conditions attaching to the extension of existing credit facilities in order to enable the company to meet its currently anticipated cash requirements.

"However", it added, "an injection of further capital will be required in order to achieve the company's planned level of production."

The company is expected to raise between £10m and £20m but some coal industry experts doubted whether this would be anything like enough to adequately finance the full-scale development of the collieries.

"The company, together with its financial advisers and with the support of the banks, is working on proposals for an issue of further equity, the detailed terms of which are expected to be announced during the first quarter of next year," the company said.

Mr Edwards fought and lost a hard and bitter campaign last year against Richard Budge of RJB Mining to buy the bulk of the English assets of British Coal.

Mixed economy  
Housing first s



Vision, guts and a near-monopoly: Rupert Murdoch (left) and Sam Chisholm of BSkyB

## Regulator investigates BSkyB grip on pay-TV

## MATHEW HORSMAN

Media Editor

BSkyB's tight grip on the pay-TV market was yesterday thrown into doubt as the Office of Fair Trading announced a wide-ranging inquiry into the broadcaster's near-monopoly in the UK.

Shares in the BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, plunged 8 per cent in mid-day trading, before recovering to close at 428.5p, down 5.5p.

At risk are the company's supply arrangements with cable operators, as well as its exclusive sport deals, particularly for football. Jonathan Hellwell, analyst at James Capel, said: "The share price is bound to be volatile on the day down just as it has been on the way up."

The OFT is looking into whether BSkyB's contracts to broadcast sport, including Premier League football, exclusively, are a breach of competition law. Sport has been the key driver of the company's success, and any loss of sport revenue would have an impact on its profitability, analysts said.

The OFT's announcement follows months of complaints from small cable companies, which accused BSkyB of abusing its dominant position in the pay-TV market. A call for a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry was headed off early this year by informal undertakings agreed with BSkyB.

These agreements are believed by the cable operators to have been wholly inadequate.

They believe that BSkyB has a near-monopoly in both film and sport programming in the UK and controls access to TV systems through its domination of conditional-access technology. They have also criticised the way BSkyB bundles its channels for wholesale distribution to cable operators.

BSkyB said yesterday it pledged full co-operation to the director-general of the OFT, John Bridgeman.

But Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB, lashed out at the complaining cable companies, accusing them of "using the

regulatory process to further their businesses rather than building their networks and serving their customers."

BSkyB has said in the past that the cable operators should compete openly for program-

ming and develop their own conditional-access technology. "Anybody could do what we did," Mr Chisholm told the *Independent* earlier this year.

"But only Murdoch had the vision and the guts."

## OFT hampered by slow system

## PETER RODGERS

Business Editor

The OFT's investigation into BSkyB's sports contracts comes under an old and cumbersome piece of legislation which the Government has promised to toughen.

The Department of Trade and Industry has indicated that it will give the OFT powers to prohibit restrictive practices as soon as they come to light and to levy fines immediately.

This would be part of a package of measures, including new powers for the OFT to seize documents and raid premises, which the Government announced that it favoured as long ago as 1993.

However, promised legislation has failed to materialise in successive Queen's Speeches. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, is to publish a new consultation document on the issue early next year and is studying whether to introduce some of the changes without full-scale legislation.

The Department of Trade and Industry has indicated that it will give the OFT powers to improve its relationship with the Department of Trade and Industry. Both departments would work more closely in the future to challenge monopoly inquiries.

procedure, under which agreements between firms must be registered.

They are then sent to the Restrictive Practices Court to decide whether they should be banned.

This is time-consuming and a company is only penalised if it subsequently ignores a ban decision upon the court.

The prohibition system, which is used by the European Commission's competition authority, has the advantage of allowing immediate bans on undesirable practices. It is then up to the defendant to challenge the

procedure, under which agreements between firms must be registered.

Meanwhile, Mr Bridgeman yesterday appeared to underline attempts by the Government to forge a new industrial defence strategy that would not just involve European collaboration.

"We are looking, as early as possible in the life of projects, at every possibility for collaborative procurement not just with Europe but also with the USA," he said.

He said the MoD was trying to improve its relationship with the Department of Trade and Industry. Both departments would work more closely in the future to challenge monopoly inquiries.

## Tunnel debt sold on at 37%

## DAVID HELLIER

One of the bank lenders to Eurotunnel, the struggling operator of the Channel Tunnel, has sold its £5m debt in the company on the secondary market for 37 per cent of its value.

According to secondary debt market dealers this is the lowest price the debt has reached in the market.

Gary Klesch, whose company is a key trader in the secondary bank debt market, said: "I see the price going lower still because there is a potential overhang of debt, especially bearing in mind the fact that one-third of it is owned by the Japanese banks, many of whom are keen to sell."

According to Mr Klesch, the Japanese banks are under government pressure to make provision for as much doubtful debts as possible.

When Eurotunnel declared a standstill on interest payment on junior debt in September, the company's price on the debt market fell from an offer price of around 70 per cent to 50 per cent.



COMMENT

The City is not easily side-tracked from the sniff of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice ... Everyone likes a stock market wonder company and, in British Biotech, we seem to have one.'

## An excited City hails Biotech as 'next Glaxo'

Is British Biotech the next Glaxo or just another speculative bubble? The City is excitedly talking about it in the reverend tones as the former. The success of clinical trials on its BB-2516 cancer drug sent the shares soaring to £21 yesterday before falling back again. The finance director, Jim Noble, tried vainly to dampen the hysteria by warning that the drug had many obstacles to overcome before it becomes commercially available, possibly in three years, but he failed. Everyone likes a stock market wonder company and in British Biotech we seem to have one.

Mr Noble's caution is understandable as well as responsible. It prevents millions of cancer sufferers being offered false hope. It also allows the company to continue its development without being saddled with the wonder-drug tag. But the City is not easily side-tracked from the sniff of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice and the talk is of huge potential for the drug and huge share price potential for the company.

While extremely encouraging, the cancer data is very preliminary. However, British Biotech is more than a one-drug company. What really impresses analysts is the range of drugs the company has under development, all with enormous potential. This weekend British Biotech will release progress reports on another drug, BB-1010, which protects the immune system of patients undergoing chemotherapy. Its arthritis drug, BB-2983, goes into clinical trials next year, with Glaxo Wellcome itself picking up the bill. Glaxo Wellcome is also paying for phase-two clinical trials for British Biotech's asthma drug. While health regulators need to be 100 per cent sure of a drug to give it approval, the stock market is not so demanding. If there is an even chance of British Biotech getting at least some of its products to market it will be enough to drive the share price, say analysts.

Gone are the days when the big pharmaceutical companies threw expensive combinations of drugs at mice and men. British Biotech, with its intellectual base in Oxford University, sells itself as a company trying to provide solutions to the root causes of complaints which either affect millions or are very expensive to treat. Cancer has always been the great Holy Grail of modern medicine and the potential market is enormous if the drugs are good enough. With royalty agreements already in place, Glaxo Wellcome is already hovering on the sideline. For the time being UK institutions are so convinced of the potential that anything less than a silly price would fail to tempt them. The upside for this stock still looks huge.

### A first step to reining in Murdoch

Could it be that the year-long campaign by cable operators to rein in Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB has finally borne fruit?

On the face of it, yesterday's announcement that the Office of Fair Trading is to investigate the terms of Sky's supply of programming to cable operators is a sign that the Government (the DTI and OFT) at any rate is finally taking Mr Murdoch's dominant position seriously.

There is much at risk for BSkyB, which has acquired a powerful position in the UK television market by offering film and sport unavailable elsewhere. Cable operators, following efforts to develop their own sources of Hollywood product and top-level sport, have in, and accepted that they would have to buy wholesale from Sky.

The problem from the cable operators' point of view was that BSkyB could set the price and the terms of supply. It could bundle channels together, obliging them to take both movie channels, for example, if they wanted to offer their subscribers Disney. A number of "informal undertakings" between the OFT and BSkyB failed to offer much remedy. Even after Sky's channels were ostensibly meant to be offered *à la carte*, cable operators found that they still had to take at least one movie channel if they wanted to get Disney. Typically for a company run along Mr Murdoch's preferred lines, every concession by BSkyB seemed to hide yet another condition. For every one issue on which the company apparently gave way, another two would emerge - vintage Murdoch.

This has become more than just a commercial battle. Reining in Mr Murdoch has become an issue of public policy in the light of the advent of digital technology. BSkyB cannot be allowed to leverage its analogue dominance to take over the digital world as well. The OFT inquiry is a first step; wholesale programming must be available on transparent, unbundled terms. The anti-competitive clauses some of Sky's contracts (with Nynex, Telewest and the Premier League, for a start) must be questioned. Down the road, Sky's dominance of conditional access must be whittled down.

Finally, with the likely full-scale commercialisation of the BBC, the consolidation of the ITV sector and the advent of digital, it may even be time to bring BSkyB under more direct regulatory control. Why should Sky, unlike all the monopoly ITV companies, be able to avoid full and frank regulation? Clearly these are out matters for the OFT but at least Mr Bridgeman has realised that someone has to make a start.

### Granada close to its goal

Less than two weeks into the Forte Takeover battle and the Granada share price is already beginning to creep back from the drubbing it received in the immediate aftermath of the company's £3.2bn bid. Gerry Robinson, chief executive, still has a task to perform in convincing the City of the

merits of this takeover, but he is beginning to get there. In the meantime Forte looks as vulnerable as ever. There is enormous disillusion among institutional shareholders with this company. If Mr Robinson's task is still a hard one, Forte's is doubly so.

Forte's first formal defence document is out next week but unless there is something unexpected to pull out of the hat it is hard to see how it can further the argument very much. The track record is poor. While it might be possible to put some fancy sum-of-the-parts valuation on the company, such exercises are only meaningful if management is prepared to put the valuation with a wholesale breakup. Does Sir Rocco Forte really want to do that? He seems prepared to go further than Granada on this front but not the whole hog.

The other traditional strategy in a bid defence is to attack the bidder. Here again Forte is going to find it hard going. Unless there is an Achilles' heel we do not know about, Forte is not going to be able to pull Granada on financial performance. In accounting terms, too, the company looks squeaky-clean.

The commercial logic of the deal is easier ground but again the core Forte businesses of roadside catering and inexpensive overnight accommodation fit neatly into the Granada group. Sir Rocco may yet surprise us but at this stage it looks bad for him. A little hit more on the offer price and Granada is home and dry.

**Mixed economy:** Hopeful signals for mortgage lenders, but an improvement in Britain's trade balance is expected to prove short-lived

## Housing market shows first signs of revival

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Correspondent

Mortgage lenders yesterday reported what they saw as the first positive signs in the housing market for many months. House prices jumped 1.5 per cent in November, their biggest monthly rise for more than a year, according to Nationwide Building Society. Halifax's price index, due out on Monday, is expected to continue its recent pattern of modest monthly increases.

The news on prices was supported by separate Bank of England figures showing a significant rise in the number of new mortgages approved in October.

Adrian Coles, director-general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said: "The housing

market is not yet out of the woods of recession, but there are some positive signs."

The cuts in mortgage rates announced earlier this month would help confidence, he said.

Philip Williamson, a Nationwide spokesman, said the ab-

sence of any Budget measures

for housing was disappointing, but there was evidence of a firm trend since the summer. Halifax believes the market has stabilised and should recover next year.

Without any special Budget measures for housing, the fortunes of mortgage lenders rest on a recovery. But hopes rose yesterday that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, might be able to deliver another fall in the cost of home loans by reducing base rates at the next opportunity.

The FT-SE 100 index closed at a new high, up just over 16 points at 3,680.4.

Evidence that manufacturing industry is in decline for the first time in three years boosted hopes of a base rate reduction. Separate figures showing a record rise in consumer credit

in October did nothing to dampen them.

The November survey of purchasing managers in manufacturing showed a drop in the activity index below 50, the threshold between expansion and contraction.

Output, one of five components of the index, edged up last month. But new orders fell sharply. The price index fell to its lowest level since August 1992, suggesting that cost pressures are no longer an issue in manufacturing.

Stocks of raw materials fell in response to weaker demand. However, stocks of finished goods rose slightly as production exceeded sales. Helen MacFarlane, an economist at the City brokers Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "It is clear that stocks have increased to uncomfortable lev-

els." Most City economists expect official figures for manufacturing output in October, out on Wednesday, to remain weak after a drop in September.

New of a record increase of £872m in consumer credit in October did not affect the City

view that a cut in base rates could come as soon as 13 December, after the next monetary meeting. The increase took the annual growth in consumer credit to 13.7 per cent - puzzlingly high given the weakness of recent retail sales figures.

Radio has been a source of big costs: £1.5m spent on the launch of the London Heart franchise alone. But radio is arguably the best strategic new road Chrysalis has ever taken. Radio's share of advertising has doubled to about 4 per cent in the past year, and the market is expected to grow by 15 per cent this year.

There are more doubts on the feature film side, but Chrysalis is in any event taking a very cautious approach.

It is clearly intent on retaining its strong TV production franchise, and continuing to develop its library of music and television rights, even if it might take a bit of a flyer on films.

While future profits are hard to gauge, the current share price of 170p, down 20p on yesterday's results, looks quite attractive for those who believe in the strategic vision.

### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

## Work to do at Wolverhampton

These were record profits from Wolverhampton & Dudley, but strip out property profits and the rate of increase, 7 per cent to £10.2m, is unlikely to set pulses racing. True, margins recovered nicely in the second half so that for the full year they matched last year's 18.4 per cent, but the underlying problems facing the West Midlands brewer remain.

With market shares of only 6 per cent in the Banks's region and 4 per cent in the North-east, where the recent acquisition, Camerons, is located, there is plainly plenty to go for in terms of organic growth within Wolves's existing areas. But the flip side of that niche position is that the company finds itself uncomfortably squeezed between its bigger rivals such as Bass and Courage still slugging it out for market dominance.

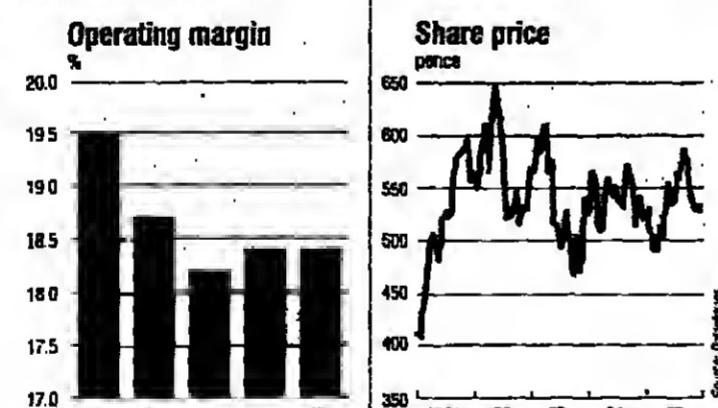
That is a problem in Wolves's core region because profit margins in the West Midlands are the lowest in the country, with beer selling for less than 120p a pint, much cheaper than anywhere else. In an increasingly competitive environment, changing perceptions of how much a pint should sell for and persuading rivals to follow you up is a non-starter. That means volume is the key and here the company has done better than average in tenanted pubs but it is little consolation when that outperformance means a fall of 3.2 per cent compared with 4.2 per cent for the market.

Only in the more food-oriented destination pubs and restaurants and inns will like-for-like wet sales improve much, underlining the importance of food in driving beer sales, and Wolves does not yet have enough pubs providing meals.

Another persistent problem is that Camerons, the North-east brewery acquired a couple of years back, is op-

### Wolves & Dudley: at a glance

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Trading record	18.8	21.0	22.4	23.1	23.7
Turnover (£m)	18.8	21.0	22.4	23.1	23.7
Pre-tax profits (£m)	33.0	35.2	36.5	38.3	43.5
Earnings per share (pence)	35.5	37.2	38.5	46.6	
Dividends per share (pence)	10.3	11.4	12.6	13.9	15.3



erating well below capacity and will lose out to its bigger rival on that patch, Vaux, unless it can acquire more houses in the area to tie into its beer sales.

All that said, Wolves is a soundly run business and the 10 per cent increase in the dividend to 15.3p confirmed its progressive dividend policy after the disappointment of the rate of growth in the payout at the half-way stage of only about 5 per cent. After yesterday's 21p rise to 551p, the shares stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of about 15. With little yield support that is high enough.

### Strategic visions at Chrysalis

Chris Wright's Chrysalis is at a crucial point in its transformation from a music and television production company to an integrated media group. Given the lack of underlying operating profits in the past year, and the likelihood of at least one more year in the red, it is virtually impossible to predict how the stock will perform. The real questions are strategic and managerial.



view that a cut in base rates could come as soon as 13 December, after the next monetary meeting. The increase took the annual growth in consumer credit to 13.7 per cent - puzzlingly high given the weakness of recent retail sales figures.

### NOTICE TO INVESTORS

National & Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice that the annual rates of interest payable on the following accounts, with effect from 2 December 1995, will be as indicated below

Name of Account	Minimum Balance	Gross Interest Rate*	Net Interest Rate**
Instant Reserve	1	1.00	0.75
Under 16s receive	250	1.25	0.93
£500 rate for	500	3.35	2.51
£1 to £500	2,500	3.50	2.62
	5,000	3.75	2.81
	10,000	4.25	3.18
	25,000	4.60	3.45
Private Reserve	500	4.00	3.00
Annual Interest	5,000	4.15	3.11
	10,000	4.85	3.63
	25,000	5.40	4.05
	50,000	5.75	4.31
	100,000	5.85	4.38
Private Reserve	500	3.93	2.94
Monthly Income	5,000	4.08	3.06
	10,000	4.75	3.56
	25,000	5.28	3.96
	50,000	5.61	4.20
	100,000	5.70	4.27
Investment Reserve	5,000	5.50	4.12
Annual Interest†	10,000	5.90	4.42
	25,000	6.20	4.65
	50,000	6.45	4.83
	100,000	6.75	5.06
TESSA***	5,000	5.43	4.07
Annual Interest	10,000	5.82	4.36
	25,000	6.11	4.58
	50,000	6.35	4.76
	100,000	6.63	4.97
TESSA***	1	6.00	N/A

# market report/shares

**DATA BANK**
**FT-SE 100**

3680.4 +16.1

**FT-SE 250**

3963.7 +4.6

**FT-SE 350**

1821.5 +0.67

**SEAO VOLUME**

863.5m shares,

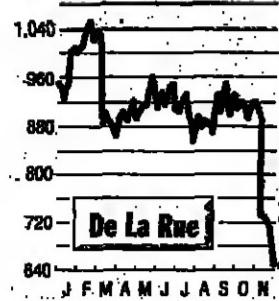
31,037 bargains

**Gilt Index**

95.65 +0.23

**SHARE SPOTLIGHT**

share price, pence



## Takeover talk and rate hopes produce another record

Another day, another record. Inspired by takeover and lower interest rate hopes leading shares ended a remarkable week in bullish form with the FT-SE 100 index up 16.1 points at 3,680.4. Except for a modest relapse on Budget day the index has made steady progress this week, gaining 56.4 points.

But the stock market is not quite such a happy place as the rip-roaring index performance might suggest. Sold one stockbroker: 408 per cent of this market is doing absolutely nothing; the other 2 per cent is going ballistic.

Certainly blue chips need interest rate cuts and at least one big takeover bid to support. The rates reduction should occur soon and, if the rumour mill was in form, the bid action should come early next week. GRE, the Guardian Royal Exchange insurance group, reassessed its position as the market's favourite victim.

The shares outperformed other blue chips, achieving a 22p gain to 292p in unusually busy trading. BAT Industries, facing increasing tobacco problems in the US, is regarded as the most likely to strike. The insurance group is seen as an ideal add-on to BAT's already extensive financial interests which include the Eagle Star insurance business. BAT shares were unchanged at 557.5p.

But a BAT strike is not the only story circulating. A defensive merger with Legal & General, also a rumoured target, is another continuing yarn; so is a get-together with the market's leading bank bid candidate, Standard Chartered. Suggestions the long rumoured Continental insurance bid is at last about to materialise lifted some other insurers, with Royal up 17p to 400p and General Accident 18p at 683.5p. L&G was little changed at 557.5p.

Another day, another record. Inspired by takeover and lower interest rate hopes leading shares ended a remarkable week in bullish form with the FT-SE 100 index up 16.1 points at 3,680.4. Except for a modest relapse on Budget day the index has made steady progress this week, gaining 56.4 points.

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**MARKET REPORT**
**DEREK PAIN**

Stock market reporter  
of the year

39p to 274p as it put its 100 million pages of business information on to the Internet.

CMG, a computer software group, made a bright start placed at 290p, the shares reached 339p.

But it was all one way traffic. BSkyB was at one time up 27p as buyers chased shares in a narrow market. They banked on US buying following the company's inclusion in the internationally followed Morgan Stanley Capital Index and further support from the Endesleigh League deal.

But then the Office of Fair Trading intervened, deciding to review the satellite television group's sports coverage, presumably sparked off by the Endesleigh deal, and its relationship with cable channels.

In often frantic trading the shares slumped 51p and then staged a modest rally, closing 55p down at 428.5p.

Coal Investments was an

other casualty, crashing 21p to 35p. The shares were 119p earlier this year. CI has had to fix up new loan terms with its bankers and is preparing a rights issue, said to be at around 10p.

De La Rue, the paper and security printing group, tumbled a further 17p to 643p. The shares have crashed from a high of 1,052p this year. The group issued another profit warning this week and analysts are continuing to make negative noises.

Hanson is another to lose its appeal. Its latest results prompted a round of downgradings, lowering the shares 10.5p to 185p, lowest for three years.

Pearson jumped 33p to 682p with a brace of big buyers appearing towards the close, and Grand Metropolitan slipped 5p to 439p. Its ESOP sold 51.9 million shares to SBC Warburg which, with Cazenove, placed 15.8 million at around 431p.

**TAKING STOCK**

**BTIG**, the old British Technology Group, gained 15p to a 703p peak as, in the heady drug fever, the market continued to speculate about its riches, largely represented by an array of patents, licences and new products. The shares were floated at 225p in the summer.

Among the stories circulating is that BTIG has clinched a licensing deal with Zeneca. It is said that the drug giant, which yesterday launched its Diprivan intravenous anaesthetic in Japan, is taking on the marketing for a BTIG cancer drug that is due to be put on sale next month.

**Wenham Co**, a maker of men's clothing, jumped 19p to 143p on takeover gossip. This week's share climb of 37p from a year's low of 97p. Interim figures are due soon.

**SHARE PRICE DATA**

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, prised up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price earnings (PE) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details or for rights x Dividends x Earnings x United Securities Market x Suspended by Party Paid per NI Paid Share.

Source: Financial Times

**THE INDEPENDENT INDEX**

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from 8am. Simply dial 0891 123 333, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

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**UK Stock Market Report** 01 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares 39  
**UK Company News** 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40  
**Foreign Exchange** 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41

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**MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES**

Stock	Value '95	Share	Value '95	Share	Value '95	Share	Value '95	Share
Grand Met.	75,000	West German	3,950	BTI	3,650	BTI	3,650	BTI
Witold	34,000	Lubritrol	14,000	SP	7,950	Chemica	6,850	Chemica
Harmon	22,000	Rolls Royce	10,000	GPE	7,950	BT	5,140	BT
London	18,000	British Gas	5,700	British Airways	7,200	Santander Bank	5,185	Santander Bank
British Steel	16,000	Shell Transport	8,400	AIDA Group	3,950	Coxon	4,600	Coxon

**FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR**

Open 365.4 down 10.3 11.00 3672.6 up 6.3 14.00 3677.0 up 12.7  
99.00 3662.0 down 4.1 12.00 3678.3 up 14.0 15.00 3672.5 up 8.2  
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# sport

## Australia steadied by pair of Waughs

### Cricket

Pakistan 299; Australia 151-3

Mark Waugh abandoned his trademark cavalier approach to steer Australia to relative comfort in the third and final Test in Sydney yesterday with a patient unbeaten 54.

Waugh gained valuable support from his twin brother Steve, who finished on 26 not out, as the pair added 60 for the fourth wicket.

Pakistan's Ijaz Ahmed, 101 overnight, went on to make 137, his highest Test score, but the tourists collapsed, losing their last six wickets for just 36.

(Second day: Pakistan won toss; PAKISTAN 299; AUSTRALIA 231 for 4)

Ijaz Ahmed c McDonald b Warner ..... 137  
Steve Ali c Steiner b McDonald ..... 1  
Mark Waugh c McDonald b Warner ..... 54  
Stephen Waugh run out ..... 0  
Steve Waugh c McDonald b Warner ..... 0  
Wasim Younis not out ..... 0  
Shoaib Akhtar 2 runs ..... 26  
Total (45.2 overs) ..... 299

Fall (overs 5-263 6-263 7-267 8-269 9-269)

Bowling: McDermott 21.4-6-53-2; Marshall 22.2-7-41-2; Steiner 10.2-3-20-1; Waugh 35-4-71-2; Waugh 10.2-4-23-2; Warner 4-2-0-0

AUSTRALIA — First Innings

M J Storer b Warner ..... 1  
M M Tait c Steiner b Warner ..... 47  
D C Boan c McDonald ..... 16  
M E Waugh not out ..... 26  
S M McDonald ..... 7  
Extras (no balls) ..... 7  
Total (for 3, 57 overs) ..... 153

Fall (overs 1-22 2-44 3-51 4-58, 5-65, 6-72, 7-78, 8-85, 9-92)

Scoring (to date): Wasim Younis 14-3-30-1;

Shoaib Akhtar 12-2-21-2; Mark Waugh 10-3-21-2; Steve Waugh 10-2-20-1; Steve Waugh 4-0-5-0.

Umpires: H D Bird and S G Randell.

## Salisbury the lone England wicket-taker

Pakistan A 73-1 v England A

England A made a disappointing start to the second "Test" against Pakistan A in Rawalpindi yesterday when the match finally got underway more than nine hours late.

Pakistan A, pot into bat, were 73 for 1 from 34 overs with Ian Salisbury gaining England's sole success.

Salisbury, brought on for the 22nd over, struck with his fourth delivery to have opener Shahid Anwar caught at the wicket.

(Second day: England A won toss; Pakistan A 73-1; Ian Salisbury 1-73)

Shahid Anwar not out ..... 36

Shahid Anwar c Pinner b Salisbury ..... 13

Extras (no balls) ..... 11

Total (for 1, 34 overs) ..... 73

Fall: 1-45

To Ian Salisbury 11-1, H A Waqar, P R Reffell, S K Waqar, S C McDonald, G McGrath.

Scoring (to date): Wasim Younis 14-3-30-1;

Shoaib Akhtar 12-2-21-2; Mark Waugh 10-3-21-2; Steve Waugh 10-2-20-1; Steve Waugh 4-0-5-0.

Umpires: H D Bird and S G Randell.



Naseem Hamed: 'If I ever lost I'd come straight back. I'd let nothing dishearten me'

Photograph: Herbie Knot

# Hamed every bit as strong in his mind as his body

**P**rince Naseem Hamed has always said that he wants to be a legend. Beating Steve Robinson at the end of September in Cardiff, and taking the World Boxing Organisation featherweight title from him, was merely another step in that direction.

He was in the gym in Winconbank the week before the fight with a T-shirt with "All I have to do is turn up" written on the back. Brendan Ingle, his trainer and manager, had forgotten his glasses. "What does that say?" he asked me. I read it to him. "The cheek of the lad. Some call it arrogance. I call it confidence."

But Naseem Hamed exudes more than confidence. There is this aura of self-belief bordering on invincibility emanating from him. I caught up with him in London, hanging out in Mayfair, a million miles from the family shop in Winconbank, Sheffield.

We had, as we had many times, but this time away from all the pressures and distractions coming from within the gym or from outside. I wanted to attempt to unpick a few psychological threads from this great cloak he covers himself in, to get some hint as to what if anything lies below this hawthorn mantle of projected self-belief. What does it hide? Or is all this confidence and self-belief just layers of an onion, densely packed all the way to the core?

I began by asking him whether there were ever any doubts in his mind that he might lose to Steve Robinson.

"No, from day one I knew I was going to be in there with the perfect style. I knew basically that he was there to be beaten by a flamboyant 21-year-old who was ambitious and strong at punching out. It was tailor-made for me and on the night of the fight I showed it. There was quite a bit of animosity in the crowd, somebody spat at me on the way to the ring, but I held my head up high. I just walked in there and took it off him."

So just how important was the psychological battle before the fight? Who does the battle actually commence between two fighters? Is it the press conference? Or even before that? "I showed him in three or four press conferences before the fight that I was definitely there to take his title," Hamed said. "He made out that

Much of the fascination of Britain's brightest boxing talent stems from his personality. Geoffrey Beattie looks at the psychology of the master of brash

he was the strongest featherweight in the world and that he had boxed the likes of Colin McMillan.

Everybody said that he was going to lose on other occasions, and he came back. But I wanted him to know that this time it would be different."

Did Robinson possess anything in his psychological armour to frighten Hamed at all? Was there anything that he could have done to intimidate him?

'I walk through fear. It's not one of those things that happens to me. I'm one of those confident people who just forgets fear'

"There was nothing whatsoever he could have done. I knew that the only thing that Steve had was a good defence. A good fighter has to break that defence up and take him out. I controlled the fight, I dominated him. I was so happy, I was smiling. I was talking, I did everything I wanted to do."

What was he saying to him?

"He turned round to me in past press conferences and said that he was the strongest featherweight in the world. I was telling him in the fight: 'You're not the strongest, Steve,' and hitting him so hard that he couldn't understand it. So mentally I was just breaking him up. Physically, it was happening at the same time and he just fell to pieces at the end of it. I caught him with one clean left hook which was the last shot of the fight. This shot was so perfectly timed that his legs just gave away."

John Ingle, who is Brendan Ingle's son, had told me that he could tell by looking at Steve Robinson at the weigh-in for the fight that he had already lost the psychological battle. I wanted

to know if Hamed could sense that as well?

"I could sense it, all right. I'd seen the look in his eyes. But I also said to him: 'If we're both confident that we can beat each other, then we should put both purses in one pot and let the winner take all.' So Steve started thinking about this and he was muttering a little bit but then he said: 'Well, I'll leave it to my manager' and I knew straight away that he'd gone. I didn't even have to look in his eyes after that."

But had he never been frightened before a fight? "No, I've never been frightened before a fight. You should see me in the changing room beforehand – I pack it out with my friends, then slam some music on, whatever music I'm into – rag or jungle, swing or soul, hip-hop, rap, whatever it is, whatever my mood desires before the fight. We'll be having a great laugh and I mean a great laugh. I'm talking about laughing, giggling, cracking jokes. This is five minutes before the fight. As long as I've got bandaged up and oiled up, I'm happy and ready to go. As soon as they say: 'The television is ready, you're on', I become a different person. I'm blind to all the guys around me then and that's it, everything finishes. I'm ready to walk out and I'm ready to do the business. There is nothing else in my mind except to go out, blank everything out, get into that ring style, and take an opponent apart in style."

If not before a fight, I wondered when was the last time he had been frightened of anything.

"To tell you the truth, I hardly ever get frightened as in 'frightened'. I could never say that fear really gets to me. I'm not one of those fighters like Nigel Bent who says: 'I thrive on fear.' I walk through fear. It's not one of those things that happen to people who just forgets about fear, and gives it to somebody else. I get into that ring and I walk round, I hear my music and then I start buzzing."

The music is very important. It's got to give me a buzz. It

always does in my fights. At the Robinson fight, all the crowds were shouting for him. They were chanting: 'Hamed, Hamed, who the fuck is Hamed?' And I thought to myself, 'I can't honestly say to myself that I know for a fact that his Parkinson's Disease never came from boxing. I think he got Parkinson's Disease because God gave it to him. I think what's written for a man is written to him to be just to show people that he was human, that he was the same as everybody else. So I reckon that it just written to him, from God.'

So does he think that everything that had happened to him so far had been written by God? "Yes, definitely. I've got so much belief in God, and I think that God's got so much

thing. But I think God has given me such a gift."

Naseem Hamed has never lost as a professional, though he did as an amateur. So what exactly happened?

"I lost about five or six times as an amateur but I could definitely say to myself that I never walked out of that ring a loser when I lost. I always knew in my heart that I'd won. I only lost because the judges didn't like my style and they went against me. I never really lost a fight as an amateur and the guys that I did lose to – when I boxed them again I beat them easy. But there was one lad who beat me and then retired at 12. I can't remember his name. I was only about 11. But I never stopped smiling. They couldn't understand it. They'd say: 'Why is he actually smiling when he's lost? Isn't there any way we can get this guy down?'

"This is what they were thinking. I'd be looking at them, knowing what they were thinking and I'd be smiling at them. I'd walk out of that ring smiling, because that was the best thing I think religion is a personal

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# sport

## Uncertain times for England

Quite what the England selectors should do about their team to play Western Samoa on 16 December is proving more troublesome than they ever would have imagined before the defeat by South Africa exposed their need for a new-look side playing new-look rugby.

They will meet today before the latest Samoan tour match, against the Midlands at Leicester, but when they will finalise their Test choice remains uncertain. In an ideal world it would have to be before the next England session at Marlow on Wednesday.

For now, though, the best they can do is add a dozen uncapped players, plus a couple of others, to join the squad – the idea being to give the young additions a taste of the big time, if such Marlow RFC on a dark winter's night can so be called. Richard West, capped during the World Cup, and Steve Johnson, who already knows about the big time after winning 10 caps, will also augment the 21 from the Springboks game.

This fits in with one of the constant refrains of Jack Rowell's quest for the Test choice: "I am getting irritated with the criticism of my displays in recent internationals," he said.

Tony Underwood's chances of returning for the Five Nations' Championship receded yesterday when he put back his comeback from mid-December until after Christmas. After returning from the World Cup the England wing made a pizza advert with Jonah Lomu and had a knee operation with the result that this season he has played for neither Leicester nor Newcastle, his old and new clubs.

"Tony is progressing very well and he's training and he's happy with the way things are going," Rob Andrew, the Newcastle supreme, said yesterday – which is a doubtful proposition given that Underwood anticipated being fit in time to face Samoa. Instead, he saw Damian Hopley make a powerful pitch against the Springboks to keep the wing position.

Andrew is also having to do without his deputy, Dean Ryan, who made his Newcastle debut against Transvaal this week but may need an operation on a calf injury depressingly similar to one in the other leg which needed surgery. At least Ryan and Underwood have plenty of time for recuperation before February/March, when they become eligible for their new employers' league run-in.

**ENGLAND:** J Quinelton (Rugby); R Stubbin (Wheatsheaf); N Alliss; H Thompson; P Chapman; M Garside; S Garside; S Hart; D Hart; S Hart (Leeds); J Phillips; M Hayfield; T Mother (Worsthorne); C Taylor (Lancaster); W Young (London); J V Pocock (London); D Kellam (Preston); P Fenton (Preston); P Goss (Oxford); D McLean (Edinburgh); P Hart (Sheffield); M McWhirter (Stretford); I Palumbo (Middlesbrough); S Smith (Huddersfield); P Lovell (Cardiff); S Vassallo (Nottingham).

**SCOTLAND:** C Trueman (West).

**Steve Bale on the problems in Jack Rowell's quest for a new style of play**

Having recovered from a shoulder injury sustained against South Africa, Tim Rodger leads the Midlands, uneasily aware that this game is almost as important for him as the Test. "I am getting irritated with the criticism of my displays in recent internationals," he said.

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**Steve Bale on the problems in Jack Rowell's quest for a new style of play**

but shooting three under for the

back nine. His troubles began

when he hit two balls in the

green-side hole at the par-three

fourth for a quadruple-bogey

seven. He then took a seven at

the par-four eighth.

"The strange thing was I

wasn't hitting the ball that badly," said Faldo, who finished 12

shots adrift of Price. "But the

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# Osborne to cash in on jockey scarcity

## Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

It has long been a part of the fabric on the Flat, but jockey power arrived in earnest for the boys of the muddy season this week. Long-term injuries to Norman Williamson and Adrián Mágure have not only gnawed away at the number of top shelf riders, they have also freed battalions of runners from leading trainers Kim Bailey and David Nicholson.

This has meant good news for the jockeys' room and, not least

of all, Richard Dunwoody, Jamie Osborne and Graham Bradley, the leading men at the reins who have been mopping up the reservoir of spare riders.

All three have risen above the station of forelock-tugging this week as gangs of trainers approached them for their services. The single figure who has thumbed his nose most blatantly has been Osborne, who had tea and trials on Viking Flagship with David Nicholson on Monday, but later the same day told the trainer he would not need the trainer's hand to lever his boot into the saddle at the

weekend. (It is not reported where Nicholson wanted to put his own boot up to this event.) It takes a brave man to cross the champion trainer, and Osborne clearly sees a long-term association with the animal he does ride this afternoon, Master Oats. The Gold Cup winner's regular jockey, Williamson, is out after a fall at Sedgfield which was accompanied by the sort of obvious pain normally noted in the graphics of a Batman fight sequence.

While the Irishman waits for a mangled right leg to heal, Osborne will ride up to, and possibly including, next year's Festival. His first appointment with the nine-year-old looks a tricky one. In Chepstow's reharsal Chase, Master Oats has to give 12lb to Bradbury Star and two stones to Katabatic, and there are not many motor cars who can do that.

Nevertheless, Master Oats (2.05) may be up to it. According to Kim Bailey, the chestnut's best run last year, considering weights and ground conditions, was the only one he did not win, what should have been another informative race, the Hatton's Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse tomorrow, has been neared by the withdrawal of Montelado. The only horse to have won consecutive races at the Festival (he captured the final event, the bumper, in 1992 and the Supreme Novice Hurdle, which opened the following year's meeting), Pat Flynn's gelding has spent much of the last three seasons in the doctor's waiting room. He has brought with him just about every prob-

lem he having a sauceran jammed over his head and now misses a hill-stickered encounter with Michael Hourigan's Dorans Pride.

At Sandown, Osborne's reject, Viking Flagship, will not have to have improved to win the Tingle Creek Chase. But whether the two-mile fencing champion is race fit enough for the job is a different matter. If he fails any way short of peak condition, there will be an opening for the impressive Ascor winner Sound Man (2.00), the Irish-trained mount of Dunwoody.

While Montelado had a slightly runny nose and I had him scoped before declaration time and they found a little mucus in his lungs, Flynn reported: "I'm disappointed as he was in superb shape, but if he ran it may have put him back a month or six weeks. The only races that matter are the Irish and English Champion Hurdles and if he had to go for them without a run it wouldn't bother me."

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The Italian reaches the landmark on Capies (3.25 nap) in a mould-breaking event for Britain. The Wulfrun Stakes at Dunstall Park is the first Listed race to be run on the all-weather in this country and has attracted an uncommonly useful field to the man-made surface. Perhaps they are getting in practice for the 1996 Breeders' Cup.

## Lonesome has friends

LONESOME GLORY is to be aimed at the Gold Cup at Cheltenham in March after humbling three rivals on his British debut at Sandown yesterday.

The top American steeple-chaser forged clear of Egypt Mill Prince on the run-in, beating Jenny Pitman's runner by 11 lengths with King Credo third and the former two-mile champion, Remittance Man, fourth.

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WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP 10-YEAR-TALE									
1986	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94
Fate of the favourites:	7	5	1	3	1	1	12	1	1
Who's in best:	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	1	1
Starting-prize:	16.1	16.1	8.4	9.2	12.1	11.4	7.1	5.4	12.2
Ages:	7	7	5	9	5	5	6	9	
Weights:	10.8	11.7	10.6	11.0	10.0	10.2	11.2	10.2	
Profit or loss to 2nd-fav. Favourites: £10.30	Second Favourites: £4.50								
Percentage of winners placed: 2nd, 3rd or 4th best since: 30%									
Shortest-priced winner: Relived (4.51/59.4)									
Longest-priced winner: Chrysalis (16.1/198.5), Ascot (16.1/198.5)									
Top trainer: M Pipe (Cognac Cigar) (398), Lester (1989), Ballou (1990), Vassell (1992)									
Top jockey: J Lister (1989) /1990, M Perrett (1989) /1991 (Ascot horses)									

GONE: French Charmer, 2.40; Fellow Countryman, 3.10; Freebie Lustre, 3.45.

REMOVED: Greenhill Tare Away, 1.00; Master Oats, 2.05.

ADMISSIONS: None.

DISCHARGED: French Charmer, 2.40; Freebie Lustre, 3.45.

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# sport

## Bonetti discovers paradise after Juventus

**Glenn Moore** talks to an Italian import sampling life in glamorous Grimsby

There he was, the Serie A star, a man who had played in a European Cup final and shared a dressing room with Michel Platini, Paolo Rossi and Gianluca Vialli. Now he was getting changed in the laundry room at Blundell Park, home of the not-quite-so-world famous Grimsby Town.

Ten years ago, Ivano Bonetti played for Juventus against the South American club champions in the Intercontinental Cup in Japan. Today he plays for Grimsby against Charlton Athletic in the End-of-the-League First Division in Cleethorpes. The shirt is still black and white stripes, but that is where the resemblance ends.

Juventus, 23 times Italian champions, were the first club to win all three European competitions. Grimsby, who last played in the top flight 47 years ago and never won it, do not even send much of a fishing fleet into Europe these days.

Bonetti's presence at Grimsby is remarkable in itself. What makes it barely believable is that he is paying £50,000 of his own money for the privilege.

Talking to Bonetti yesterday, as he cheerfully pulled his training kit on amid the washing machines and tumble dryers, one had to ask him: where did it all go wrong? The answer, delivered with the aid of his interpreter and cousin, Dario Magri, is that nothing has gone wrong. He loves it in Grimsby, so much so he has turned down the chance of a lucrative move to Japan.

Such is his desire to play he turns out today despite being thrown through the windscreens in a head-on car crash while visiting Italy in midweek. "He was so lucky," Magri said. "The cars were written off." Incredibly Bonetti suffered only mild cuts and bruising to his forehead.

Bonetti's affection for Grimsby is reciprocated. Blundell Park will be sold out today for a match which would normally attract 4,500. Instead they were queuing on Monday to be among the 8,500 capacity crowd. Five hundred of those supporters, judging by this week's sales, will be waving an Italian flag, a similar number will be wearing shirts with "Bonetti" on the back.

"It is incredible for me,"



Ivano Bonetti, the former Genoa, Juventus, Sampdoria and Torino player, makes himself at home in the Grimsby Town laundry room

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Bonetti said. "For 15 years in Italy I played alongside big-name foreign players, now I find I am the big-name foreigner in a town which did not know I existed two months ago."

It helps that Bonetti is a charmer, as a player and a person. On arrival at Blundell Park, the first person he went to was Dot, the late-middle-aged laundry lady, kissing her on both cheeks. He smiled constantly, was evidently popular with the manager's team of Brian Laws and Kenny Swain, and with his team-mates.

After he scored the winner against West Bromwich a fortnight ago, Plowes said: "He did a lap of honour. He blew kisses to each stand in turn and hugged his translator; all this while the ref is waiting to restart the game. At the end he did another lap of honour with all the mascots bowing

and scraping the ground around him."

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"It is a special situation here. At 31 I am still achieving something. There are goals to pursue here just as there were at Juventus. They are simply smaller goals."

It is like we are living outside Grimsby," Magri said. "Yes, they are going nuts about me in town," Bonetti added.

It is "ivanomania", said Steve Plowes, the editor of the Grimsby fanzine, *Sing When We're Fishing*. "He has galvanised the place. It is like love. Suddenly you fall for someone and you are sitting in a room holding a bunch

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